

Assembly in doubt after Unionist snub to minister

By Richard Ford

The leaders of the two Ulster Unionist parties last night rejected an invitation to meet Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for discussions on the assembly whose future is to be decided within 10 days.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, said in a joint statement that they could not enter talks with the Government until the Anglo-Irish agreement was suspended.

The Government is considering dissolving the assembly, set up four years ago at a cost of £2.5 million a year, as it sees little point in going ahead with new elections when hopes for agreement on some form of devolution remain as slim as ever.

Although the Government could reconstitute the assembly through an Order in

Mulhearn threat to defy party ban

The Labour Party last night faced a new constitutional crisis in the Militant stronghold of Liverpool.

Mr Tony Mulhearn, a councillor expelled from the party after being officially branded a Militant Tendency member by the national executive last week, planned to attend the annual meeting of Garston constituency party last night.

The constituency has voted to reject any expulsions imposed by the executive, and it was understood that Mr Mulhearn would be allowed to attend the meeting.

Mr Mulhearn said yesterday: "The constituency has already taken several decisions that they will not recognize the expulsions, and I have no reason to suppose that will change."

"The party membership have expressed total opposition to what the right-wing dominated National Executive Committee has done." He said he was attending as a delegate from the National Graphical Association.

A full-time regional officer of the Labour Party was to attend the meeting and would report any breach of party rules to the national executive.

It is believed the executive would then refuse to recognize the constituency party and would send its own officers to set up a new one.

The NEC has already disbanded the Liverpool District Labour Party, of which Mr Mulhearn was president. But its reorganization plans suffered a setback when Mr Mulhearn was elected president of the temporary coordinating committee set up to replace it.

Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, joined strikers outside a Dublin sewage works.

Mr Hatton, who is to face a Labour Party hearing over his alleged Militant links, was beginning a five-day visit to the Irish Republic at the invitation of supporters of the publication *Irish Militant Monthly*, which also has links with the Militant Tendency.

The sewage strike, over pay, has stopped refuse collections and other services.

Priest denounces 'cruel' IRA killing

Three hundred mourners yesterday heard the Provisional IRA murder of an alleged informer described as "cruel, unjust and brutal" (Richard Ford writes).

Father Michael Canoy said at the funeral in St Eugene's Cathedral, Londonderry, that although the Provisional IRA had offered some kind of excuse, there was no justification for the murder of Mr Frank Hegarty. His body was discovered on a border road in Co Tyrone at the weekend after the terrorists had questioned him about leaks of information to the security forces. He was then shot once in the head.

Mr Hegarty, aged 45, a republican activist, had returned to Londonderry recently after spending several months in a "safe" house in

Sittingbourne, Kent. He had been flown out of the province only hours after the Garda found 120 rifles and 18,000 rounds of ammunition in three arms dumps in counties Roscommon and Sligo in January.

It is understood that Mr Hegarty returned because he was homesick and missed his elderly mother and believed he could convince the terrorists that he had not been involved in informing.

After the funeral, the priest was criticized by Mr Martin McGuinness, a Provisional Sinn Fein Assembly member, who said that priests and politicians who refused to acknowledge the reality of the consequences of Britain's occupation of the island were apologists for the British presence.



A youngster from the National Association of Boys' Clubs takes a victory walk on water at Nottingham after 300 canoeists in 285 boats formed a raft formation on the Trent and floated for 95 seconds, breaking the old record of 30 seconds

Sport Aid 'squeeze' begins

Sport Aid organizers were yesterday endeavoring to maximize the money raised by Sunday's worldwide Race Against Time in aid of African famine relief. They are optimistic that the total will eventually far exceed the proceeds of Bob Geldof's original Band Aid scheme.

"This has to be the day of the big squeeze," Mr Nick Cater, the organization's spokesman, said, while helping volunteers to answer incessantly ringing telephones at the Sport Aid headquarters.

"We are telling everyone who ran that they should waste no time in collecting all the money pledged by their sponsors, and we want them to ask for more than was pledged. If people offered £10 they should be urged to pay £25," he said.

"The runners too should look at their own contributions. Some were running in kits costing £200, and just a pair of running shoes costs £25. We think it is reasonable

to hope that they would not give less than the cost of a pair of shoes."

Credit card contributions by telephone to centres in London, Glasgow, Birmingham and in Ireland had raised £700,000, short of the £1 million target, when the lines closed on Sunday night. But yesterday Sport Aid volunteers were still taking credit card donations, giving the address of their temporary headquarters in central London to people wanting to send cheques.

Mr Chris Long, Sport Aid chairman, who suggested the Race Against Time to Mr Geldof, returned from New York yesterday, ecstatic at the response. "My target when we started was to have one million people running. We did something like that in Britain alone when you consider all the small local races that mushroomed up everywhere. We have already raised £5 million before the sponsorship money comes in."

Firewoman hands in uniform

Miss Lynne Gunning, the London firewoman whose complaints against six male colleagues for sexual harassment led to them being disciplined, handed in her uniform and left the service yesterday (Patricia Clough writes).

Assistant divisional officer Peter Holmes, chief of the Old Kent Road station where she had been serving, said Miss Gunning, aged 25, left on medical grounds.

One fireman was dismissed, four others fined and a station officer demoted in October 1984 after Miss Gunning brought them before a disciplinary board.

Miss Gunning last year sued the Greater London Council for allegedly neglecting to ensure that she was not victimized as a result of her action. She is also seeking damages for assault, mental distress and injury to feelings.

Three held over art theft

Three men were being questioned last night in the Irish Republic by police investigating last week's multi-million pound theft from the Beit art collection.

They were being held at Mallow police station, Co Cork, under the Irish anti-terrorist law, which allows people to be held for up to 40

hours before being charged or released.

Two were arrested on Monday with the wife of one of them, who was later allowed to leave. They were picked up after police found a dugout in a field that was big enough to store paintings or other stolen property.

The third suspect was detained yesterday. Police said there was nothing to link the dugout directly with the theft of 11 Old Masters from Russborough House, the home of Sir Alfred Beit, near Blessington, Co Wicklow, last Wednesday. A five-figure reward has been offered for information.

Attempt to quell fears over hot rocks project

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Department of Energy moved quickly yesterday to quell anxiety about the fate of British research into the development of geothermal energy, or the use of heat from hot rocks under the ground for generating electricity.

There were fears that the project, in progress in Cornwall, was threatened because of the Government's delay in renewing financial support.

The department said yesterday that the future management of the scheme was under review because several industrial concerns were now interested in the venture.

But the department would continue to pay for the work, if new arrangements were not settled before the expiry of the current research contract with the team, geologists at the Camborne School of Mines.

The investigations, which have cost £19 million, began 11 years ago. They resulted in an experimental scheme to demonstrate the process of pumping water via one borehole into granite several thousand feet deep, and then recovering the heated water from a second extraction borehole.

The geothermal energy unit's team of 60, based in a quarry near Stithians, Cornwall, is now producing enough heat by the process to heat

several hundred homes or 20 acres of greenhouses.

But the next step is to drill deeper, using the boreholes to boil water into super-heated steam at 200C. The geologists believe that if they deepen existing 8,500ft boreholes to 18,000ft, the yield of steam can be used to provide electric power, as a renewable and benign energy alternative to nuclear reactors.

The research contracts finish at the end of September. A Department of Energy spokesman said yesterday that the question of renewal was still under consideration.

Mr David Penhaligon, Liberal MP for Truro, has tabled a question for when Parliament returns next week, asking Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to make a statement on the project's future.

He is concerned at reports that a draft report enthusiastic about the chances of success has not yet been published and has been told of suspicions that it may be rewritten to present a less attractive picture because the Government wants to end its involvement.

Privatization moves have so far foundered because some of Britain's main civil engineering groups have met legal problems over ownership of the heat source.

Union to vote on Wapping

Prospects of an end to the 17-week-old dispute over the News International move to Wapping, east London, were uncertain today as the main print union involved began to ballot its members on the company's final offer.

The crucial vote was arranged yesterday by the executive of Sogat '82, representing more than 4,000 of the 5,500 print workers who were dismissed after striking in support of demands for lifetime employment last January.

The latest offer, which was presented at the weekend to all five unions concerned, lapses on Friday or on completion of any ballot that is taking place by then. Sogat officials said the result of their ballot would be known by the company's final deadline of June 6.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, increased an initial offer of £15 million in redundancy payments to £30 million, and a proposed gift of a printing plant at Gray's Inn Road was enlarged to include the building which formerly housed the editorial offices of *The Sunday Times*.

However he made no significant concession on key demands for the reinstatement of the dismissed workers and recognition of trade unions at Wapping and at a News

International plant at Kinning Park, Glasgow. Mr Murdoch said: "Our loyalty is to the people who are working for us, not to the people who went on strike and we've made that very clear."

Regardless of the final outcome, the improved offer appeared likely to increase strains between the various unions and within Sogat itself, where the leadership has been severely criticized by militant London branches which have insisted there should be no compromise on the key issue of lost jobs.

The reaction of union leaders was evidently one of unhappy resignation to the fact that Mr Murdoch's latest offer was the best they would get, and that it was now up to their members to decide whether to take it or leave it. Predictably, the response of pickets outside the Wapping plant yesterday was hostile.

Mr Colin Williamson, deputy father of a Sogat chapel (branch) on *The Sun* and *News of the World*, told reporters: "We didn't come out on strike for money, we came out because of Wapping and we want a job here. I would like to see a massive 'no' vote, but I can't say if that will happen."

Mr Williamson vilified Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, as a jackal,

saying: "It's absolutely disgraceful that Norman Willis and the national union leaders have been holding secret talks over the weekend and pulling the wool over the members' eyes."

Mr John Lang, committee member of the Sogat clerical branch at *The Times*, was critical of Miss Brenda Dean, the union's general secretary. "The whole deal and the way it has been achieved is absolutely disgraceful. I think Brenda Dean should resign and that is the opinion of a lot of people."

"We want to campaign vigorously for a 'no' vote, to carry on with the dispute, but the national leadership don't want that at any price."

Union sources believe that acceptance of the deal by Sogat could isolate the union from the NGA, which was thought likely to reject the offer.

Independent commentators whose views were sought yesterday included Mr Charles Wintour, former editor of *The London Standard*. "I think if they've got any sense they'll accept it. It's not an ungenerous offer in terms of money... what alternative have they got? They're not going to get their jobs back at Wapping, which was their constant demand."

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Guide to aid home purchasers

A manual intended to help protect the interests of new home buyers was launched yesterday by the National House-Building Council, an independent body aimed at promoting better housing standards (Christopher Warman writes).

The council, now in its 50th year, has previously published home buying guides but the latest version is in response to public demand for a more detailed guide to their own homes and their construction.

Calls for the introduction of a house "log-book" on the lines of a car log book, giving the legal title of ownership, were abandoned as not feasible after talks with bodies including the Law Society.

The handbook will be distributed to all new home buyers registered with the council, accounting for more than 99 per cent of the estimated 170,000 new homes sold each year. It includes advice on maintenance and security, with sections on brick and block and timber frame construction, and details of the council's 10-year warranty scheme.

MP urges ban by journalists

A senior Tory backbencher yesterday urged journalists to boycott a union conference to which only black reporters have been invited.

Mr John Carlisle, secretary of the all-party Anglo-South Africa group of MPs, said: "This is the first instance of apartheid in Britain and it is disgraceful."

The conference, of Nalco, the local government union, is about how black workers are treated within and outside the trade union movement.

Invitations to the conference, to be held in Leeds next Saturday, say: "Black journalists are invited to attend the closing session. Representatives from the conference steering committee will be available for interview by all journalists from 5.30 pm."

The rest of the conference is held in private.

But Mr Carlisle, MP for Luton North, said: "It is a disgraceful move by Nalco to accentuate the difference in the colour of a person's skin and thus prevent some of them from reporting on political opinions."

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Visitors told he ETA bot

Bail terms shock magistrate

Closure plans come in profit

Poor food

Visitors to Spain are told 'be vigilant' over ETA bombing threats

By Michael Horsnell

British holidaymakers were urged yesterday to be vigilant but calm about threats by Basque ETA separatists to mount a beach bombing campaign in Spain this summer.

Bomb warnings, given to newspapers in the Spanish and French Basque region on Monday, are aimed at wrecking Spain's tourist industry and come after last year's bombing campaign when 19 small devices were exploded by the separatists.

The bombs had little effect on tourism, but the campaign tied up police reserves along the Mediterranean coast of Spain.

About 8,000 police have been detailed to begin a security operation in the area this year against terrorists and muggers.

A Foreign Office spokesman said no advice was being given to British tourists not to go to Spain. Tour operators are expecting to book up to a quarter of a million package holidays during the coming three months.

The spokesman said: "We are in regular touch with the Spanish authorities in whom we have full confidence. We are not advising British tourists against visiting Spain. The Foreign Office will keep in close touch with representatives of the British tourist industry."

Holiday operators advised tourists not to panic on the grounds that last year's bombing was a form of political pressure on the Spanish government and not anti-British.

A Horizon holidays spokesman said: "Our advice to people going to Spain is to remain vigilant and report anything unusual. It is the advice we put out to our representatives some weeks ago following the Libyan situation and it still holds."

He added that Spain is the most popular choice with holidaymakers this year and that the increased numbers over last year reflects their composure in the face of terrorism, muggings and high prices.

Mr Neil Thompson, Pickford's marketing director, said there was no need for holidaymakers to panic.

● America's reluctant tourists are to be offered free air travel and car rental as an incentive to visit Ireland in an attempt by Irish tourist chiefs to reverse an expected 25 per cent drop in United States trade this summer, because of terrorism fears.

Passengers who book flights to Ireland in the US before July 15 for journeys up to next November will get the chance to buy two extra tickets for the price of one. They will also be entitled to a free car for a week for every two adults travelling together.

The offer is being made by the Irish national airline, Aer Lingus, in conjunction with the Avis car hire company. As an additional spur to holiday in Ireland, United States tourists will be able to travel on to any point in Europe served by Aer Lingus for \$99 (£66).

Gales mar Aer Lingus birthday

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister of Ireland, flew into Britain yesterday amid tight security to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Aer Lingus, the country's national airline.

But the historic occasion was marred when the centrepiece of the show, a 1934 de Havilland Dragon, failed to arrive at Bristol airport because it was grounded by gale force winds.

The Dragon is a sister craft of the Icarus or "Eagle", the airline's first commercial aircraft which made its inaugural flight to Bristol in 1936.

Dr FitzGerald had arrived earlier on board a Boeing 737 with a number of guests including three former prime ministers, Mr Liam Cosgrave, Mr Jack Lynch and Mr Charles Haughey, along with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr Jim Tunney.

Also in the party were two of the original five passengers who made the historic flight 50 years ago: Dr Timothy O'Driscoll, who became director of the Irish Tourist Board, and Mrs Sheelagh Martin.

Dr FitzGerald, who used to work for Aer Lingus, said: "Obviously it is a shame that the old plane could not fly in. As a child two things interested me, politics and air transport. Aer Lingus has come along a great deal since the early days. My flight over in the Boeing was very smooth."

He added that the airline had helped to forge links between the two countries.



Michael Crawford (top) will be joining Sarah Brightman (middle) in Andrew Lloyd-Webber's new musical The Phantom of the Opera, due to open in the West End on October 9, it was announced in London yesterday.

Sale of records suffers in wake of compact discs

By Teresa Poole

Demand for single and long-playing records has fallen sharply this year, with sales of records high in the pop charts suffering the most.

Deliveries of singles to retailers fell by 17 per cent to 15.2 million in the first three months of this year, compared with the same period last year. Deliveries of LPs fell by 8 per cent to 9 million, according to the British Phonographic Industry, the record company trade organization.

It said the poor performance of singles' sales was partly due to the success of the Band Aid Christmas record, which sold more than one million copies early last year.

But according to the Gallup organization, which compiles the music industry's official charts, there has still been an underlying drop with up to 25 per cent fewer sales needed this year to send a record to the top of the charts.

Figures for the past four weeks have continued to show a 15 to 20 per cent fall in total singles sales. Three weeks ago, "Rock Me Amadeus", by Falco, the German singer, sold fewer than 50,000 copies in the week it reached the number one position. "It got there by default," a Gallup spokesman said.

The BPI said that, by contrast, sales of cassettes and compact discs have continued to rise. Cassettes are increas-

ingly being purchased in preference to LPs, with cassette deliveries showing a 13.6 per cent improvement to 10.6 million units in the first quarter.

The burgeoning compact disc market showed the strongest growth with shipments more than doubling to 1.2 million discs. Annual sales by British manufacturers to the trade are forecast to reach 6 million units.

However, the British firms say that they are still failing to keep up with demand and retailers are taking advantage of imports from other EEC countries.

The overall value of recorded music deliveries in the first quarter increased by 3.4 per cent to almost £72 million.

UK TRADE DELIVERIES

	Jan-Mar 1986	% change on Jan-Mar 1985
Singles	15.2m	-17.0
units value	£17.6m	-12.3
LPs	9.1m	-8.0
units value	£23.8	-6.0
Cassettes	10.6m	+13.6
units value	£22.8	+13.1
Compact discs	1.2m	+101.8
units value	£7.7m	+130.5
Total	£71.9m	+3.4

Bail terms shock magistrate

A London magistrate was shocked to hear yesterday that a man accused of conspiracy to cause explosions had been granted unconditional bail.

"No conditions that he must not kill anybody, or anything like that?" Mr Eric Crowther, stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, remarked after Philip Kersey failed to appear.

Mr Kersey, aged 23, of Canterbury Place, Newington estate, Walworth, had been charged after a car blast in Clapham High Street in November, and was on police bail before his first court appearance in April.

Mr Crowther issued a warrant for his arrest and said that he would be investigating the circumstances in which he was initially granted bail.

Mr Kersey, a mortuary technician at Guy's Hospital, is charged with plotting with Mark Tomber, aged 28, from Dagenham, to cause explosions likely to endanger life. He is also charged with having 10 improvised band grenades, seven detonators and two petrol bombs about November 1 last year.

Holiday foils farmer's attempt to evict hippies

Mr Les Attwell, a farmer whose land has been invaded by hundreds of hippies, suffered a setback in his attempt to move on the "peace convoy" when he failed to obtain a court hearing yesterday because of the Bank holiday.

Mr Attwell, aged 57, who claims to face financial ruin because of damage to crops and property, will try to seek a High Court injunction today.

Mr Attwell, suffers from angina and collapsed when the convoy of 100 vehicles moved on to his 101-acre farm at Lyte's, Cary, near Yeovil, Somerset, last Friday.

The hippies, who are massing for a banned festival at Stonehenge, had been evicted from a farm near by on a High Court order.

Mr Attwell says the hippies' action will ruin him as he will get no maize crop from the 13-acre field and will have to sell his stock at a low price.

In an increasingly volatile situation, local residents voiced their fears of vigilante groups taking the law into their own hands. They argue that the police have proved unable to stop the hippies because trespass is a civil offence.

Princess visits drug centre

The Princess of Wales chatted with drug addicts and alcoholics yesterday about their ruined lives and the treatment they were receiving.

The Princess had asked to visit Broadway Lodge, the pioneering rehabilitation centre at Weston-super-Mare, Avon, and spent nearly two hours talking with 40 patients.

She learnt of marriages and homes broken through drink and of the dependency and sometimes death that follows drug-taking.

The Princess earned the admiration of the centre's counsellors - some of them former addicts - for her knowledge of the drug problem.

She surprised everyone by having read *Kid Heroica*, a book by Liz Cutland, a counsellor whom she met.

Mr Edward Lindsey, head of treatment, said: "The Princess is very well informed about the subject. There is no doubt at all she has taken a personal and genuine interest."

Anonymous. It was based on a treatment regime developed in Minnesota.

It was in America that the Princess learnt of the lodge, and asked to see some of its work and to meet the staff.

Mr Lindsey said that it was the oldest centre of its type in Europe. He felt that the Princess's visit would help boost the treatment regime which had the highest success rate in alcoholics, with 70 per cent of alcoholics and 60-70 per cent drug dependants abstaining after treatment.

● The Princess was yesterday criticized for not visiting an NHS treatment centre in Weston-super-Mare, by Mr Edgar Evans, secretary of the Community Health Council.

He said that her visit to the Broadway Lodge gave the royal seal of approval to the Minnesota method of treatment which is shunned by most doctors and the Government. Some wealthy and famous patients paid nearly £100 a day for treatment, he said.

Peace note offered for taxes

A peace campaigner, Mr Edward Stanton, aged 48, of Grange-over-sands, Cumbria, is to offer specially designed "peace notes" to the Inland Revenue in Barrow-in-Furness today to carry a £250 tax bill.

"These constitute IOUs which will be replaced with real money when the Inland Revenue agree that the taxes of conscientious objectors will not be used for making weapons for mass destruction, which is illegal," Mr Stanton, a Quaker, said yesterday.

The £250 represents the balance of £520 taxes and costs which he owed.

The judge told him he had no option but to pay, regardless of how the money was used.

However, in an open letter to be handed to the Inland Revenue today, Mr Stanton says that it would be a crime for him willingly to pay his taxes to be used for "this most horrific form of terrorism".

Drive for cooking butter

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

A £540,000 campaign to explain the uses of concentrated butter for cooking is to be launched next month by the Butter Information Council.

Although the product has been in the shops since the start of the year, as part of the EEC effort to rid itself of surplus butter stocks, most consumers are still unaware of what it is or how to use it.

Television, newspaper and magazine advertising will emphasize its versatility as a cooking fat, but will also point out that it is not intended for spreading on bread.

Mr Chris Bird, council chief executive, said he was confident that the product would be readily accepted once its benefits were explained.

It is selling for about 31-32p for a 250 gram pack, which is more expensive than lard or cheap margarine, but it has a better flavour.

Closure plan at mental home in police inquiry

Staff at a home for the mentally handicapped where police are investigating allegations of beatings and brutality were yesterday preparing to close it.

Social workers were making urgent plans to move the last five patients living at Oriel Lodge, Great Cornard, near Sudbury, Suffolk.

The home is at the centre of a police inquiry after claims that some of its mentally handicapped patients had been beaten, drugged and locked in their rooms.

Last week the local social services panel decided to cancel the home's registration certificate, declaring it unfit for residential care.

The panel's reasons included criticisms of Oriel Lodge's poor living conditions, inadequate heating, hot water and kitchen facilities, as well as financial irregularities, lack of qualified staff and disputes between staff and the owner, Mrs Caroline Marsh, who is founder and executive director of the charity Share (Selected Homes and Residen-

£10,000 a week to rent home

An historic home, complete with butler, cook, 1,900 acres of parkland and a helipad, is in need of a tenant with £10,000 a week to spare.

Braxted Park, the 250-year-old Georgian mansion, near Witham, Essex, is the home of Mr Michael Clark, a millionaire and deputy chairman of the Plessey Electronics group. It is being let for eight weeks during the summer.

Included is a heated indoor swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course, clay pigeon shooting, sauna, tennis court, trout fishery near by and a croquet lawn.

There is a domestic secretary, a resident caretaker, gamekeepers and gardeners.

Hampton and Sons, the London-based agents, have been inundated with clients eager to sample luxury living at an historic home, which has seven double bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a ballroom and five reception rooms.

Vicar goes in dispute over clock

By Patricia Clough

The vicar of the picturesque village of Montacute, Somerset (population 600), has resigned after a dispute over the ancient church clock.

The Rev Archibald Dean, aged 72, resigned in despair after the debate over whether to restore the clock or give it a new winding mechanism "turned personal".

The clock, built 200 years ago by the village blacksmith, has been stopped for a year, since Mr Clarence Rogers, who had climbed the church tower steps and a 15ft ladder every day for 60 years to wind it by hand, turned 85 and declared he had had enough.

"A certain element wanted to restore it, with the addition of electric winding, and a certain element wanted something completely modern. I suggested we should see if there was someone who could restore it and in fact there is," Mr Dean said.

Mr Dean found himself caught in the middle of the argument and had to chair some very unpleasant meetings.

In a letter in this month's parish news, Mr Dean said: "Frankly, I do not know what Montacute wants, but it seems I am not the right person to supply it."

Mr Dean, who will continue in his other role as rector of Odcombe, Luffton and Brympton, preached his last sermon on Sunday.

Mrs Amy Yates, secretary of the parish council, said his departure was particularly sad as they had since agreed on a study of the clock's condition.

"He was a very wonderful man and it is very sad that this has happened."

Poor response to abstracts

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

While pioneering abstracts by Mondrian can fetch more than £1 million, furniture designed by his contemporary and friend, Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, still has a small and uncertain following.

"Rietveld furniture is a minefield," Mr Dan Kleio of Christie's said yesterday after selling for a total of £126,287 the contents of a room designed by Rietveld for the Birza family of Amsterdam, in the 1920s and 1930s.

Mondrian influenced Rietveld's design and was in turn influenced by his stark outlines and this furniture should have been considered as a pioneering example of the application of abstract design to the decorative arts. It dated from the right period and the commission is fully documented.

In the event it was treated with caution and the condition of the pieces was fussed over.

The unique "Birza chair" was the highlight of the sale, stamped out of a single sheet of fibre. It was made by G.A. van der Groenekan, who found the design so difficult to realize that he refused to make another.

The Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam spent 127,600 florins (estimate 20,000-25,000 fls) or £33,578 to acquire it but only after expressing worries that the piece had been remodelled in the 1950s. Groenekan stated that it had been remodelled under Rietveld's supervision about 1930 and the Birza family confirmed this, but the doubts remained.

The other high-flyer was an ebonyized plywood easy chair which Rietveld designed in 1924 and which sold for 110,200 florins (estimate 20,000-25,000 fls) or £29,000 to Mr Barry Friedman, a New York dealer.

According to Groenekan only five chairs of this design were made.

Christie's said it had been deluged with offers of other Rietveld furniture for sale as a result of the Birza room auction. Most of the furniture is poorly made - its interest lies in the design - and only fully documented pieces made in the pioneering 1920s command Birza-type prices.

At Sotheby's yesterday prices for early English pottery were high. A Staffordshire slipware dish of about 1710 with a design of a cockerel between a thistle and a rose, a reference to the Act of Union between England and Scotland of 1707, sold for £17,600 (estimate £7,000-£9,000).

A saltglaze cylindrical tankard of about 1745, crisply moulded with fabulous animals, birds, fish and a riotous tavern scene, secured £6,030 (estimate £1,500-£2,500).

In contrast, fine early English porcelain was selling at or below estimate and seems to be getting left behind in price.

The sale included a 1984 Toby jug made for the "Jim'll Fix It" television show to please Toby Gillette - the jug is his own portrait. He had sent his jug for sale and it made £15,900. Royal Doulton only made three jugs of this design, one for Gillette, one for Jimmy Savile, who hosts the show, and one for itself.

Boy of eight aids capture

A boy aged 8 has been praised by the police after helping to capture two escapees from a youth custody centre near Warrington, Cheshire.

Francis Worthy, of Rodgers Close, Frodsham, Cheshire, rang the police emergency number when he saw the two youths, aged 16 and 19, sleeping in an old garage on his way to school.



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from customers			
Loans and Advances	US \$	6,800 million	
net of provisions			
Total Assets	US \$	16,500 million	
excluding intangibles			
Result before Tax	US \$	158 million	
after subtraction			
Capital/Assets Ratio		7.18%	
		(since increased to 9%)	
Branches and Offices in		71 Countries	
Principal Subsidiaries			
Bank of Credit & Commerce International S.A., Luxembourg			
Bank of Credit & Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd., Grand Cayman			
Subsidiaries, Affiliates and their branches/offices in the following countries			
Argentina	Ghana	Macau	Sierra Leone
Australia	Gibraltar	Malaysia	Spain
Bahamas	Grand Cayman	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	Hong Kong	Mauritius	Sudan
Bangladesh	India	Monaco	Swaziland
Barbados	Indonesia	Morocco	Switzerland
Botswana	Isle of Man	Netherlands	Thailand
Brazil	Italy	Netherlands Antilles	Togo
Cameroon	Ivory Coast	Niger	Turkey
Canada	Jamaica	Nigeria	UAE
China	Japan	Oman	United Kingdom
Colombia	Jordan	Pakistan	Uruguay
Cyprus	Kenya	Panama	USA
Djibouti	Korea (South)	Paraguay	Venezuela
Egypt	Kuwait	Philippines	Yemen (North)
France	Lebanon	Portugal	Zambia
Gabon	Liberia	Senegal	Zimbabwe
Germany (West)	Luxembourg	Seychelles	

Austin Rover hits back at rumours about new saloon car

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Austin Rover hit back yesterday at rivals who have started a "whispering campaign" against its new Rover 800 executive car being produced in Switzerland by the big fleet buyers.

The motor trade's prolific grapevine is awash with rumours that the new car being produced in partnership with Honda is more Japanese than British and that this doubtful parentage should be taken into account by those companies with a "buy British" policy.

In a long statement yesterday Austin Rover said the new Rover 800, which goes on sale on July 10, had an average UK content of 91 per cent across the model range and that this was the highest local content of any model range sold in Britain.

The only main Japanese-made parts in some versions were the Honda V6 engine, gearbox and power steering, but most Rover 800s would have the new Austin Rover two-litre engine built at Longbridge, Birmingham.

The average UK content of Ford cars produced in Britain is 83 per cent but its Granada, which will be the new Rover's fiercest competitor, is imported from Ford Germany and contains less than 7 per cent British parts.

However, a Ford spokesman pointed out last night that its cars sold in Britain contain an average of only 0.2 per cent of Japanese parts.

General Motors cars assembled here contain only 50 per cent British parts. Both its successful executive cars, the Carlton and Senator, are German-made with a Vauxhall badge swapped for their original Opel name plate.

The Rover 800 is the result of a unique partnership in the motor industry.

The aim was to build two outwardly different cars from the same base. The Austin Rover version is being produced at Cowley, near Oxford. The Honda version, called Legend, will shortly be built there also. In Japan, Honda will build both versions.

Prince Michael of Kent yesterday praised the world car industry for improving fuel consumption figures. He said British manufacturers had succeeded in cutting figures by 20 per cent, compared with their objective of 10 per cent.

Prince Michael, who is president of the RAC, was speaking in Bournemouth at the opening of an international conference of motoring experts.

Imported sausages are blamed for swine fever

Veterinary surgeons believe imported sausages could have started a swine fever epidemic which has devastated pig farms in the West Country, the Midlands and the north of England.

It has been established that the plague began at Gloucester livestock market on April 21 when thousands of pigs were sold.

Stock held by every farmer registered at the sale that day has been checked by Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeons, but the source is still unknown.

With more than 4,000 pigs now slaughtered on pig farms, the vets fear there could soon be further outbreaks

before the epidemic is brought under control.

Four of the farms are in the Tewkesbury and Combe Hill areas of Gloucestershire and the others are in Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Mr David Williams, the deputy regional veterinary officer who is running the ministry's emergency headquarters in Gloucester, said yesterday: "We are working on a theory that imported sausages or other pig meat had the fever virus in it."

"We believe it's likely that waste food from an infected batch was thrown out and then eaten by the animals."



Teddy bears of the famous are on parade at the Prince of Wales hotel, Southport, for three days from tomorrow. They have been lent to the Spastics Society. The owners of these teddies are, from left, the Duchess of Kent, who owns three of them, Princess Alexandra, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Neil Kinnoch, Dr David Owen, the Duke of Westminster, Lord Romsey, Mr David Steel and Princess Michael of Kent (Top photograph: Tim Bishop).

Alternative energy:3

Physicists strive to generate the sun's power on earth

Nearly 30 years ago scientists began laboratory experiments to reproduce thermonuclear fusion, the process that drives the stars. Their goal was to build machines that generate energy like the sun, thereby obtaining an inexhaustible source of power. This third report on alternative energy by Pearce Wright, Science Correspondent, looks at progress in the long-term research into fusion.

The sun is a massive nuclear reactor. But, rather than splitting heavy atoms of uranium fuel by the fission process, as in existing atomic power stations, the solar furnace is fuelled by the lightest element, hydrogen.

When two atoms unite, forming helium, a large amount of energy is released. More important for those searching for a clean source of

power, there is none of the fission products of nuclear waste.

The temperature at the centre of the sun is estimated at about 20 million degrees centigrade. Powerful gravitational forces are at work, keeping the fusion reaction growing.

The challenge which physicists took up was how to create conditions on earth to duplicate that process on a small and controlled scale.

The circumstances were recreated in an uncontrolled way 35 years ago, with the first H-bomb.

Clearly, that method, which used a small A-bomb to provide the necessary high temperatures and density for fusion, is of no use in developing a steady, controlled release of useful power.

Though not agreeing with the reference to "transfer" in the 1974 Act, Parliament supposed that such alterations would have retrospective effect in respect of rateable values at April 1, 1973.

laboratory at Culham in Oxfordshire, which is the home of the European venture.

The scientists have a target date of 1989 to demonstrate the feasibility of designing a torus-type machine as the heat source of a power station.

Physicists working with Professor Ernest Rutherford at Cambridge in the 1930s recognized that nuclei of atoms would release energy if they fuse.

Their device was a magnetic machine.

Huge magnets are needed. The iron for the core of the magnets in Jet weigh 2,700 tonnes, and the copper coils weigh 384 tonnes.

The magnetic fields they generate are to overcome the force of repulsion between the atoms, and to provide thermal insulation.

Only a whisp of gas is used as the fuel. But when the temperature rises into the first few thousand degrees centigrade, the plasma develops a slippery quality.

The machine on which European hopes are pinned, for proving it can be done, is called Jet, which stands for Joint European Torus.

It is one of four comparable devices throughout the world in experimental use or under construction. The others are in the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan.

Exciting results are beginning to emerge from the

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The European version, at Culham, is a huge machine. The magnets, which are intended to heat and contain the plasma, surround a 68-tonne stainless steel doughnut, which is 10 feet in radius.

The reactions now go on in a massive building known as the Torus Hall, which is a huge structure, with 90ft high ceilings and walls of 9ft thick concrete.

The doors, which are vast 400-tonne concrete slabs, are moved by cranes.

Concluded

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 28 1986

Court of Appeal

Retrospective effect of rates cut

Macfarquhar and Another v Phillimore and Others

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Oyd and Lord Justice Nicholls [Judgment given May 19]

A retrospective reduction in the rateable value of a leasehold house could be taken into account in determining whether its rateable value exceeded £1,500 on April 1, 1973 for the purposes of the Housing Act 1967, as amended by the Housing Act 1974.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the landlords, the trustees of Lord Phillimore's Voluntary Settlement, from a judgment of Judge Harris, QC, at West London County Court that the applicants, Roderick and Emily Macfarquhar, were entitled to acquire the freehold of 55 Campden Hill Road, Kensington, London.

Mr Nigel Hague QC and Mr David Neuberger for the landlords, Mr John Hicks QC and Mr Oliver Tietz for the applicants.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the applicants held the unexpired residue of a tenancy of 63 years of the house from March 1954 at a yearly rent of £24.

On March 23, 1965 its rateable value was £597. New valuation lists came into force on April 1, 1973 and the rateable value was then £1,784. In May 1973 the valuation officer proposed a reduction to £1,605.

By section 79 of the General Rate Act 1974 that reduction had to be retrospective for the purposes of the 1967 Act. The question for the appeal was whether it had a like retrospective effect for the purposes of the 1967 Act.

The reduced figure of £1,605 was still above £1,500. But in March 1984 the applicants were granted a certificate - on the ground of previous tenants' improvements - for a further reduction of £113.

It was agreed that that reduction related back for the purposes of the 1967 Act to April 1, 1973 and could be prayed in aid by the applicants. But to succeed in the objective of purchasing the freehold they had to pray in aid also the reduction from £1,784 to £1,605.

The landlords argued, and Judge Harris had accepted, that section 79 of the 1974 Act applied generally to give retrospective effect, to April 1, in the relevant rating year, to any alteration in the Valuation List and thus applied to give retrospective effect to April 1, 1973 for the purposes of the 1967 Act.

That submission was wholly unacceptable. Section 79 showed merely that the general policy of the law was altered to be retrospective for rating purposes. If they were to be held retrospective for the purposes of the 1967 Act that would be because of something in that Act.

The 1967 Act as originally enacted did not apply to the house. It came in, if at all, as a result of amendment of the Act by the Housing Act 1974. But the scheme of the Act had always been to enable tenants of houses held on long leases at low rents to acquire the freehold.

Rateable value came in in two ways, first, in that the houses to which the Act could apply were only those the rateable values of which on the "appropriate day" exceeded a certain sum, and second in that the definition of a tenancy at a low rent was limited to tenancies under which the rent was not equal to or more than two thirds of the rateable value.

Sections 1(1), (4), (4) and 3(7) were relevant to the case. By section 1(6) the applicants had a right to acquire the freehold if the appropriate day, being April 1, 1973 their house had a rateable value of not more than £1,500.

Section 3(7) provided that section 25(1)(2) and (4) of the Rent Act 1977 was to apply for the purposes of ascertaining the rateable value.

Looking into the relevant legislation it was manifest that Parliament intended that alterations in rateable values which had retrospective effect for rating purposes to April 1, 1973 were to have like retrospective effect for the purposes of the 1967 Act.

There was no conceivable reason why alterations should have retrospective effect in respect of rateable values at the appropriate day but not in respect of rateable values at April 1, 1973.

Moreover there was an indication in the Housing Act 1974, which introduced section 1(6) into the 1967 Act, that Parliament supposed that such alterations would have retrospective effect in respect of rateable values at April 1, 1973.

Accordingly the applicant was entitled to pray in aid of the rateable value of the house as amended not more than £1,500 was correct.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD and LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Baillys Shaw & Gillett; Freer Cholmeley.

Future inheritance can be property

Michael v Michael

Before Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Nourse [Judgment given May 16]

In certain circumstances an interest which a person might inherit under the will of an existing person could constitute property which she "is likely to have in the foreseeable future" within the meaning of section 25(2)(a) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

However, the occasions on which such an interest would fall within section 25(2)(a) were likely to be very rare. In the normal case uncertainties both as to the fact of inheritance and as to the time at which it would occur would make it impossible for a court to hold that the interest was property which was likely to be had in the foreseeable future.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by Mrs Patricia Michael from a decision of Judge Hutton in Gloucester County Court in proceedings for ancillary relief following the breakdown of her marriage.

The judge had decided that the husband's application for a lump sum and/or property adjustment orders should be adjourned indefinitely to await the death of the wife's mother then aged 64.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the question raised on appeal was whether the former matrimonial home at 20 Drybridge Street, Monmouth, Gwent, now occupied by the wife under a protected tenancy granted by her mother, the freehold owner, was or was not property which the wife "is likely to have within the foreseeable future" within section 25(2)(a).

While that section was primarily but not exclusively concerned with property and financial resources in which there was a vested or contingent interest, its broad and informal language showed that it was intended to operate at large and not in some strait-jacket tailored to the sober uniforms of property law.

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 28 1986

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While that section was primarily but not exclusively concerned with property and financial resources in which there was a vested or contingent interest, its broad and informal language showed that it was intended to operate at large and not in some strait-jacket tailored to the sober uniforms of property law.

There could be no doubt that it could in certain circumstances extend to something which in the language of that law was a mere expectancy or spes successions, for example, an interest which might be taken under the will of a living person.

Suppose, for example, a case where there was clear evidence, first, that the respondent's father was suffering from a terminal illness; second, that his will left property of substantial but uncertain value to the respondent; and third, that it was highly improbable that he could or would revoke it.

In such a case it could hardly be doubted either that the property was property which the respondent was likely to have in the foreseeable future or that the application should be adjourned to abide the death of the father.

There could be no doubt that it could in certain circumstances extend to something which in the language of that law was a mere expectancy or spes successions, for example, an interest which might be taken under the will of a living person.

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 28 1986

Court of Appeal

Job rights transfer on exchange

Kestonate Ltd v Miller

Before Mr Justice Wood, Miss M. Boyle and Mr A. J. Ramsden [Judgment given May 20]

An employee who was dismissed by the transferees of a business after contracts of sale were exchanged but before completion was still employed "immediately before the transfer" and was entitled to bring a claim for unfair dismissal against the purchasers of the business.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the employee had been employed by Racquets Ltd who operated an indoor tennis club. On March 29, 1984 receivers were appointed. On August 24 she was dismissed as from August 31.

On August 20 contracts for the sale of Racquets to Kestonate had been exchanged and completion took place on September 14.

It was after exchange of contracts that Kestonate dismissed the employee.

The employee alleged that her dismissal was by reason of the transfer of the business and claimed reinstatement. Kestonate denied liability.

The Regulations had to be read as a whole but it was important to bear in mind the primary object of safeguarding

the rights of employees.

The important regulation was regulation 5 which contained the phrase "immediately before the transfer". The real question was whether the word "transfer" had to be construed as meaning the date of completion or a point of time, or whether it was to be understood as the whole period of the transaction.

It was to be noted that a distinction was made in regulation 5 between the phrases "before the transfer" and "after the transfer" and the phrase "completion" of a relevant transfer and "the transfer is completed".

The latter phrases referred to a point in time and seemed to indicate that the word "transfer" on its own might refer to a period of time.

MR JUSTICE KENNEDY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the renewed application was frivolous and groundless.

It came with the support of counsel. As had already been made clear, in future, the fact that an application was renewed with the support of counsel would not necessarily mean that the applicant would not be ordered to lose time.

On the present occasion as an act of mercy their Lordships did not so order.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the employee had been employed by Racquets Ltd who operated an indoor tennis club. On March 29, 1984 receivers were appointed. On August 24 she was dismissed as from August 31.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report May 28 1986

Court of Appeal

Risk of time-loss

Regina v Gayle

Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Legatt and Mr Justice Kennedy on May 16, during the hearing of a renewed application for leave to appeal against sentence, addressing counsel, said that the renewed application was regarded as frivolous and groundless and the time was rapidly arriving, if it was not already here, when despic such an application being made on counsel's advice, the applicant would be ordered to lose time - that time spent in custody

awaiting the hearing should not count towards sentence.

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£5bn plan for power barrage on Severn

The Government was yesterday considering a plan to build a barrage across the Severn costing more than £5 billion which could supply a fifth of Britain's electricity needs from tidal power.

The report, by the Severn Tidal Power Group, a consortium of construction and power generating companies, examines private funding for the scheme which would take advantage of the incredible tidal surge in the river.

The report, commissioned jointly by the group and the Department of Energy, identifies two possible locations for the barrage. The first would form a nine-mile link between Weston-super-Mare and Cardiff, and the second, four-and-a-half miles long, would be five miles downstream from the Severn bridge.

A Department of Energy spokesman said: "We have received the report, but have not yet reached a conclusion."

He said there was no mention in the report of any proposal to build a motorway on top of the barrage to relieve the ageing Severn bridge.

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Doctors may be allowed to publicize services under proposed reforms

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The medical profession's disciplinary body, the General Medical Council (GMC), is proposing to relax its strict rules on advertising to allow information booklets to be freely available to patients on the services that their doctors provide.

The proposed rule changes, which will be circulated for widespread consultation before a final decision in November, will "legitimise" the information booklets at present produced for patients by doctors in many practices.

The change would, however, make the booklets freely available not only to existing patients but also to prospective patients through local libraries, post offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux and other "centres of public information".

That part of the proposal, however, looks set to be opposed by the British Medical Association which favours the production of information booklets and leaflets, but says that they should be available only to existing patients and to prospective patients who apply for them personally at the doctor's surgery.

In addition the GMC is proposing that family practitioner committees and community health councils should be free to publish lists of local doctors, giving not just their names as at present, but also their specialist qualifications and the services they provide.

The GMC's proposed guidelines set out broad principles rather than specifying precisely what information could be provided.

But Dr Donald Irvine, chairman of the council's six-panels committee that drew up the guidance, said yesterday it could include details of surgery times; whether a deputising service is used for out-of-hours cover; whether special clinics are run for family planning, ante- and post-natal care, or for diabetics and hypertensives; and whether health visitors and practice nurses work at the surgery.

Advertising in local papers or on radio or television would still be ruled out, with the new guidance saying that the information must be confined to "factual information of a non-promotional nature". It must not be intended to "gain an advantage over local colleagues", and must not make claims about the quality of service or the doctor's personal qualities or level of performance.

The changes are the result of pressure from the Royal College of General Practitioners and the British Medical Association for patients to be given more information about the services that doctors provide so as to make it easier to choose a family doctor.

There has also been strong pressure from the Government which at one stage was considering proposing that family doctors should be allowed to openly advertise their services.

The Government's discussion document on doctors' services, published last month, stopped short of a firm proposal on advertising, but said that "local media could be used to disseminate factual information about practices".

The GMC's proposal that the information booklets should be available at libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux as well as at doctors' surgeries is likely, however, to be opposed by the BMA.

Dr Michael Wilson, chairman of the BMA's family doctors committee, said yesterday: "The idea that they should be available at such places makes this very much more a marketing and advertising exercise."



The Lloyd's underwriting room yesterday on the first day of business at the £163 million headquarters in Lime Street, London (Photograph: John Manning).

Weather and dear sugar hit bee farms

Britain's commercial beekeepers are facing serious financial difficulties after months of cold, wet weather and artificially high EEC sugar prices (John Young writes).

In their normal state bees depend on pollen and nectar, and in a cold wet summer, when the ordinary pollination cycle is interrupted, they are less productive. When that is followed by a bad winter, as has happened in the past year, many older bees fail to survive.

When nectar is scarce commercial beekeepers make a substitute feed of syrup made from sugar mixed with water.

But within the EEC beekeepers are obliged to pay the protected price of £400 a tonne, while important honey producers such as Israel are able to obtain it at the world market price of about £150 a tonne.

Mr Desmond Winslow, secretary of the Bee Farmers Association, said yesterday that beekeepers were paying far more than usual for supplementary supplies.

An additional irony was that EEC market support for sugar beet growers was costing taxpayers about £1 million a day.

Mr John Davies, who keeps about 300 hives near Shaftesbury in Dorset, said it was costing him £2,000, even in a good year, to feed his bees adequately.

Mothers could lose on family credits

Proposals to pay the new family credit for the low-paid through wage packets rather than a Department of Health and Social Services giro could cost some mothers about £16 a week, according to figures published yesterday by the Family Policy Studies Centre (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Family credit is to replace Family Income Supplement (FIS) for the low-paid when the Government introduces social security changes in 1988. At present FIS is paid by a DHSS giro, often to the mother rather than the father.

Under the family credit scheme, benefits will be paid into wage packets.

Ministers have agreed to review the proposal after Conservative backbench pressure. It is argued that it is likely to transfer money away from mothers, who usually have responsibility for children.

The centre said that, combined with the end of free school meals for children on FIS, a mother of two children aged under 11 and on an income of £80 a week would be about £16 a week worse off.

While in theory husbands would hand over the money from their pay packets, "often women do not know what their husbands earn and neither will they know how much credit is included for their children," the centre said.

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Science report

Ex-drivers depressed after stroke recovery

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Most people who have been motorists before suffering a stroke do not return to the wheel after recovering from their illness, and many suffer from depression and reduced social activity as a result, a survey has found.

More than half of the patients - 58 per cent - who were able to drive before their stroke were not driving a year later, the survey involving 144 cases showed. The average age of the patients was just under 65 years, and 90 per cent were men.

The research, carried out by the department of neurology at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, included assessments of arm function, walking, functional ability, and intelligence quotient, and showed former drivers to be "significantly more disabled" than drivers.

Within the terms of the law, many people who have had a stroke are likely to have a "relevant disability" for more than three months, and should inform the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre (DVLC) at Swansea. Few of the former drivers in the Bristol survey had done so, although none disputed his or her obvious inability to drive.

Three-quarters of the patients who had given up driving told the researchers that they could not, or were not allowed, to drive because of physical or mental disability, and the others said they did not wish to resume motor-ing, or could not afford to do so.

Stopping driving was associated with a loss of social activities and more frequent depression among former drivers when compared with drivers.

Thirty-nine per cent of the group who had given up were "probably" or "certainly" depressed, in their own assessment. Only 7 per cent of those still driving came to the same conclusions.

"Loss of social activities appears to be associated with depression. The inability to drive after a stroke could well exacerbate this loss, and thus contribute to depression," the researchers have reported.

Source: *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* Vol 79 No 4 Pages 200-203

Woman given heart-lungs transplant

A woman was given a heart and lungs transplant at Papworth Hospital near Cambridge yesterday.

Mrs Linda Bower, aged 47, of The Green, Evenley, Northamptonshire, is the twelfth person to have undergone the double transplant.

She was seriously ill when she was admitted to Papworth early yesterday. Her four-and-a-half hour operation started at 2.30 a.m. Later she was said to be in a satisfactory condition.

Video is used in choir girl murder hunt

Police officers throughout Britain will this week be shown a video film concerning the murder of Miss Sarah Harper, a Salvation Army choir girl whose body was found in the river Trent, near Nottingham.

Detectives hunting the killer said that the information in the film could lead to a vital breakthrough.

It is believed to be the first time a video film has been distributed in this way during a murder inquiry.

Pilgrims on first flight from 'papal airport'

The Irish Republic's controversial "papal airport" in remote Co Mayo began operating officially yesterday, in spite of the Dublin government's refusal to grant it a long-term licence, EEC reluctance to provide extra funds and howling gale-force winds.

More than 100 Roman Catholic pilgrims took off from Connacht Regional Airport in an Aer Lingus Boeing 737 named after Ireland's most recently created saint, Oliver Plunkett, a seventeenth-century martyr, and became the first passengers to use the multi-million-pound airport under the terms of a full licence.

The Lourdes-bound pilgrims' departure came three days before the air centre's ceremonial opening by Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish opposition leader and former prime minister.

They were seen off by Monsignor James Horan, Ireland's best-known parish priest, the man in charge of the Marian Shrine in the village of Knock, the main reason for the construction of the airport.

A three-month licence has been granted by Mr Jim Mitchell, Communications Minister, who is seen as a leading critic of the project after he described the site as "a foggy, boggy hillside".

Mr Mitchell, who will not attend Friday's opening, sent his congratulations and best wishes to the airport company, together with a warning that a full licence could not be given before certain technical installations were completed.

He repeated a promise to do anything possible to support the airport, apart from handing over more state funds.

It is the Irish government's lack of enthusiasm for the airport, together with its withdrawal of funding three years ago, that has stopped the EEC coming up with more money.

Dr Pierre Mathijsen, the EEC Commissioner for Regional Services, visited Knock this week and told Mgr Horan that the EEC could not provide cash without the support of the Irish government.

So far the airport project has cost £10 million.

Actor banned

Nigel Pivaro, aged 26, a Coronation Street actor, who overturned his car after drinking with friends, was banned from driving for a year and fined £275 by Manchester city magistrates yesterday.

Hoaxer fined

Derek Whyte, aged 24, of Dundee, was fined £50 by Uxbridge magistrates in west London yesterday for a hoax bomb alert at the South African Airways desk at Heathrow Airport on May 24.



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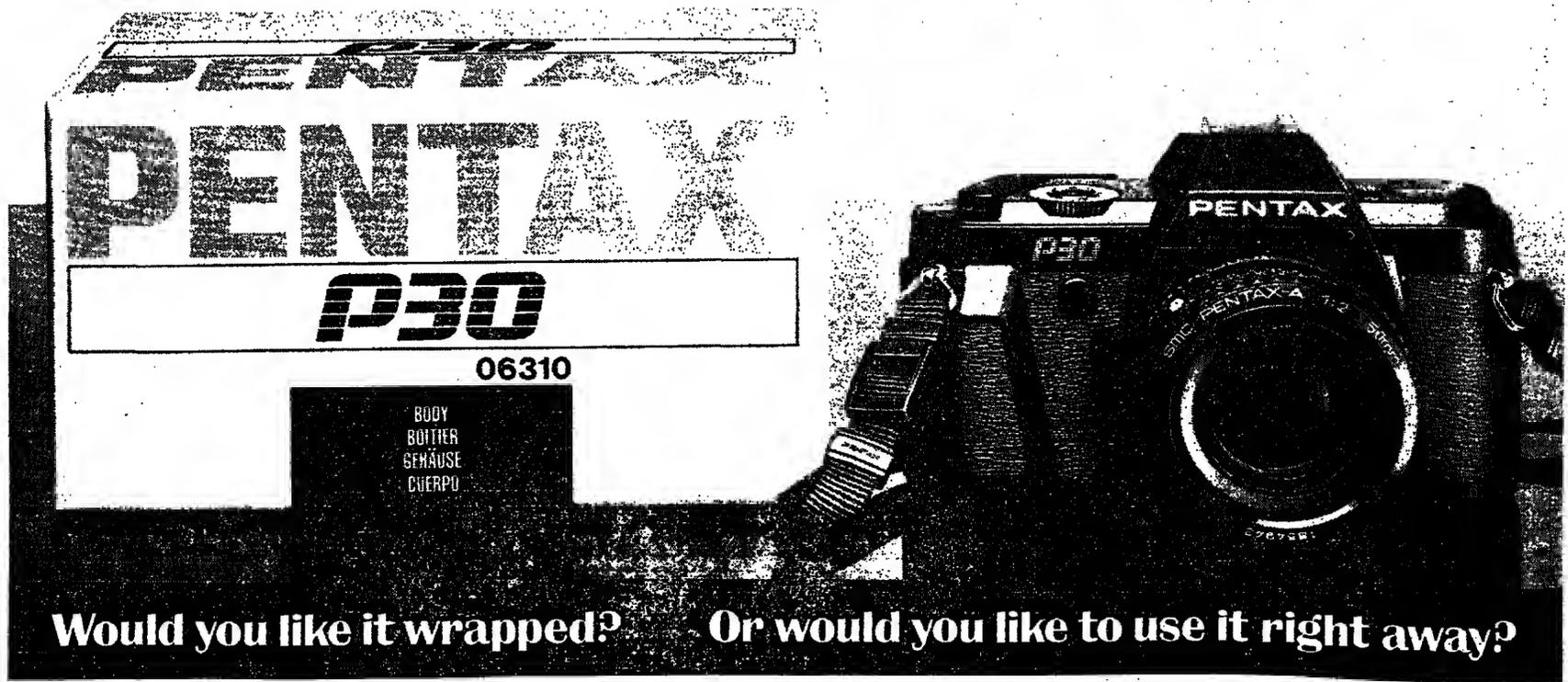
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THE BAR CONFERENCE Two-branches defended • Jury system praised • Insurance concern

Hostility between law professions 'certain recipe for disaster'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, warned the legal profession yesterday that mutual hostility between the Bar and solicitors or between either branch was a "certain recipe for mutual destruction."

In a vigorous defence of a two-branch legal profession, he said that each branch had its part to play. "This has nothing to do with restrictive practices or the suppression of competition."

A demist does not pull out a tooth single-handed, he said. Similarly, being an advocate was a "two-handed job" to court, even though we do not always choose a pretty assistant to see the client or the judge.

Lord Hailsham said that specialization of function was "absolutely essential in modern law" and the equivalent of the division of labour in classical economics.

The Lord Chancellor, who was giving the opening address at the Bar's first conference in London, said the objects of such specialization were service to the client, assisting the court, the integrity of the profession and the interests of the public.

He said it was extraordinary that there should be people who advocated the idea that barristers and solicitors should no longer be separate professions, mutually dependent, but providing together "a service to the public unparalleled elsewhere, in its efficiency, its independence and its incorruptibility."

solicitors, the English legal profession had three other specialist branches: there was the professional judicial bench, teachers of law, and salaried lawyers.

Each branch had a "separate justification, each a separate economic base and," he added, "I feel an equal duty to each one."

He called for the closest co-operation between the various branches and between them and the Lord Chancellor; mutual hostility was a "sure prescription for disaster."

But on the contentious issue of legal aid fees, now being negotiated between his officials and the legal profession in the wake of the Bar's legal action against him, Lord Hailsham said it was "clearly impossible to say anything".

He also launched a strong attack on the idea of a ministry of justice which he said was "constitutionally very dangerous".

The independence of the courts and the judiciary was "still at the very root of our liberties."

"It is my conviction that a minister of justice based in the House of Commons would be a menace to the independence of the court and the judiciary, perhaps even of the legal profession."

In his view, it was also incompatible with court administration or judicial impartiality that one minister should have responsibility both for judicial appointments and running the courts, and also with prosecutions and penal treatment on the other.

The benefit of having an Attorney General responsible for the prosecution service, a Home Secretary for criminal law and penal treatment with a Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords fixed on his seat on the Woolsack could not be over estimated. That would be imperilled by the proposal for a new ministry.

The Lord Chancellor went on to attack recent proposals supported by some Bar leaders that responsibility for judicial appointments be removed from his department and placed with an advisory committee.

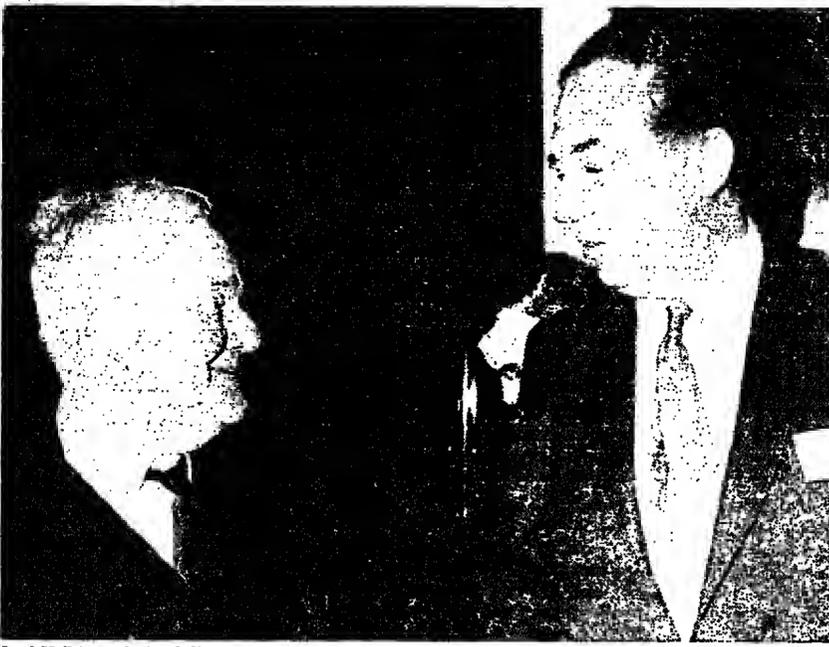
"Under our constitution parliamentary accountability implies a responsible minister and not a quango," he said.

"In practice, the Lord Chancellor is always advised before he acts; anyone who thinks he acts as a dictator is a fool," he added.

Later in an interview on BBC Radio 4, Lord Hailsham was asked about Judge James Fickles, the circuit judge who has recently published another newspaper article in defiance of rules on judges taking part in public debate.

Asked whether such pronouncements could damage the independence of the judiciary, Lord Hailsham replied: "We shall just have to wait and see. It's always the outcasses which cause the bother, you know."

Asked directly if he was calling Judge Fickles a nutcase, Lord Hailsham replied with a chuckle: "Far from it. Why should that thought cross your mind for an instance?"



Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, (left) with Mr Robert Alexander, QC, the chairman of the Bar Council, at the conference.

Bill for investment controls supported

Delegates were asked to support a Bill designed to tighten investment regulations.

Mr Richard Sykes, QC, chairman of a legal workshop on company law, hailed the Financial Services Bill now going through Parliament as a radical change in an area where new laws were badly needed.

"The present system is a muddled and outdated amalgam," Mr Sykes said.

"The Bill is a bold experiment designed to produce flexibility of self-regulation without the drawbacks of ineffectiveness."

He said old regulations led to a regular succession of public scandals.

The effect of the new legislation will become clearer in its final form. But it appears that the Securities and Investment Board of the Department of Trade and Industry will be designated to oversee the authorization procedure and the activities of those who are authorized.

Mr Sykes said a number of loopholes would be closed by the new law, which tackles a number of detailed areas.

Police role in case inquiries attacked

The role of the police within the English adversarial system of justice has been responsible for large numbers of miscarriages of justice and for guilty men going free, Mr Ludovic Kennedy, the author and broadcaster, claimed yesterday.

They indulged "in all sorts of malpractices to bring about a guilty verdict... and in what Lord Devlin has called 'pressing too hard against those they believe to be guilty.'"

"So widespread has the habit become and so great now is public awareness of it, that I understand juries in some courts are so distrustful of the police that they tend to bring in acquittals where the burden of proof rests mainly on police evidence," he said.

The police were expected to perform two incompatible jobs: preventing crime taking place and detecting the offenders, and conducting forensic inquiries which required quite different skills of analysis and deduction.

He called for a body of neutral legal figures, possibly stipendiary magistrates, akin to the French system of examining magistrates.

All serious crimes would be reported to them, they would interview suspects and witnesses and direct police in their inquiries.

They would also make recommendations, and not the police, to the crown prosecutors.

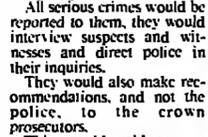
This would achieve two vital reforms at one stroke: prevent the conviction of the innocent as a result of police malpractice and, where juries tend to disbelieve police evidence, prevent the acquittal of the guilty.

As for the acquittal of the guilty as a result of "the skills and tactics of counsel", there could be no remedy for that until trial procedures as well as investigative ones are conducted on inquisitorial lines, he said.

Among the advantages of the French system were that it avoided the "pseudo-dramatic atmosphere" of the adversary system, saved time in that lawyers did not have to go over the same ground; and did not grind to a halt on frequent occasions while the judge decided what was admissible as evidence.

As its object was to find the truth, almost all evidence was admissible.

Mr Richard May addressing the lawyers at the conference.



Mr Richard May addressing the lawyers at the conference.

Warning of trial split

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The new crown prosecution service is in danger of creating a split between prosecuting and defending barristers which could weaken the future quality of judges, a circuit leader said yesterday.

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, leader of the north eastern circuit, said there was a "disturbing" trend towards centralization so that there were fewer paymasters of prosecution and defence work.

If the prosecution was to be a centralized organization, and the defence left to small firms of solicitors and other barristers the Bar would be "vivisectioned".

"The great good, honourable and favoured will be prosecuting and others left to defend," Mr Gray said.

That could lead to the physical separation of prosecuting and defence counsel which now existed at the Central Criminal Court where the prosecution had its own rooms.

The result, he said, would be some barristers becoming "prosecution-minded", and others "defence oriented" and the balance that was essential would be lost.

In turn that could affect the judges of the future. "10 years to come a future Lord Chancellor will want to appoint some new judges and will go to circuit leaders and ask who is fit to be made a circuit judge," Mr Gray said.

"The answer may be, do you want a prosecutor or defender? We don't have all

that many who are balanced in the physical separation of prosecuting and defence counsel."

Mr Gray said that the new prosecution service could also lead to changes in the way barristers were paid. What was already happening was that the service wanted counsel to present the whole list of cases in the magistrates' courts and be paid for a session's work instead of by the traditional brief fee.

But the trend would not stop there, he said. On visits to the circuit he had seen perhaps 30 barristers doing 10 case lists. That was not cost effective.

The "Treasury-led critics" would be bound to voice the same complaint and suggest that the system of pay for magistrates' courts be extended to the crown court.



Mr Ludovic Kennedy (right) with Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, leader of the northern eastern circuit.

Support for juries in complex fraud trials

The jury is a cornerstone of our unwritten constitution and must be retained for complex fraud trials, Mr Michael Hill, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, told the conference.

"I have seen juries do extraordinary things. But then I have seen judges do equally extraordinary things," he said.

He added that he had also seen juries in "very brave things, reacting against what they perceive to be oppression, even if that reaction could be castigated as flying in the face of the evidence and of clear judicial guidance."

Mr Hill was speaking on the likely impact of the Roskill report on fraud trials, which suggests that juries in complex fraud be scrapped and replaced with a fraud trials tribunal.

Jury trials in complex fraud took a long time, cost a lot of money and imposed a considerable burden on lawyers, judges and juries, he said.

But the truth was that the profession and the legislators had been caught out by the size and complexity of modern fraud.

"It seems a little illogical to say that the cure is to abolish the audience because the playwright, the producers, the directors and the actors are not

doing their job properly."

Juries were also needed to protect the system, Mr Hill said. They represented the public's involvement in the criminal process. "Just think of the effect upon an already-divisive society of the first acquittal in a major City fraud trial by a fraud trials tribunal made up of the good and godly."

There would be significant changes in other fields as a result of the Roskill report, he said, with considerable impact on the trial process and the Bar's work practices.

The Bar had called for such reforms for years and was determined that the chance now offered by the report should not be lost. But Mr Hill took issue with a number of the report's key proposals.

Looking at proposals likely to be implemented, he said that a new single body in charge of all fraud investigation was a good idea. But he was concerned that the proposed involvement of lawyers at an early stage in an investigation posed a threat to their independence.

He also took issue with the Roskill proposal for improving pre-trial procedures by compulsory defence disclosure of its case.

Judicial system criticized

By a Staff Reporter

Speakers at a conference workshop on public law criticized the present judicial system for being unsatisfactory and unwieldy.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, the chairman of the workshop, predicted that the role of the courts as watchdogs over the executive would be undermined unless the laws were changed.

"Litigants find themselves crumpled in a new web of procedural technicalities largely spun of different threads from the old," he said, adding that it was a reproach to a mature system of justice.

Professor Jeffrey Jowell, Dean of the Law School at University College, London, said British citizens did not enjoy the same rights as Europeans because administrative law developed in EEC countries was rarely applied here.

He believed courts in Britain would have to tread carefully and condemn the present judicial guidelines for being "vague and unwieldy."

Rising cost of insurance

By a Staff Reporter

There is growing concern in the legal profession about the increasing premiums lawyers are having to pay for insurance against cases of negligence, and the tough standards imposed by judges on lawyers accused of unprofessional conduct.

The feelings were aired yesterday during a workshop on Liability for Professional Negligence at the Bar conference. Speakers and the audience called for new measures to meet the growing problems faced in their profession.

Among the suggestions made by some of the 100 assembled barristers and solicitors were for a fund to help meet compensation in cases of professional negligence and a statutory limit for sums paid to plaintiffs.

There are fears that the type of negligent suits filed in the United States for professional negligence may be repeated here. Since 1950, nearly half the cases of professional negligence have been brought to court in the past five years.

Lawyers are now facing rapidly-increasing insurance premiums and some solicitors

in the City are refused insurers in large corporate deals where premiums are too high.

One delegate said lawyers were even having to take out insurance to their deaths, because the statute of limitations for cases of negligence did not expire for 15 years.

Mr Rupert Jackson, a barrister and co-author of Professional Negligence, said that in spite of the laws applicable to all professions in cases of negligence, the courts did not behave even-handedly towards each professional category.



Mr Peter Scott, QC, vice-chairman of the Bar Council.

"In cases involving solicitors, by and large it is the court that determines the case," he said. "In medical cases it is the profession that determines whether or not a doctor has been negligent."

Delegates agreed that the more complex the profession, the more the legal system relies on expert witnesses.

In the case of lawyers, judges often made up their own minds, and because the judges were generally good lawyers, they set a high standard for the defendant to meet.

Mr Peter Scott, QC, the vice-chairman of the Bar, said accountants had already proposed a list of recommendations regarding cases of negligence to their profession. He said the time would come shortly when the Bar Council should decide whether to approve similar measures.

One pupil barrister, Miss Sue Hunter, said the conference and workshops worked very well.

"You rarely meet barristers out of court, and this is a good opportunity to talk with colleagues interested in the same field of law," she said.

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Israeli attorney-general defies pressure to withdraw spy chief case

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Zamir, the Israeli Attorney-General, complained yesterday that he was facing "the most severe pressures ever brought upon me" from the Government to drop the prosecution of Mr Avraham Shalom, head of Shin Bet, the counter-intelligence service.

Mr Zamir said, however, that he was withstanding the pressures and was determined to press on with the case. Israel was facing a very important matter of principle involving the rule of law and the principles of justice. Unlike members of the inner Cabinet, he did not believe these principles contradicted national security considerations and therefore there was no reason for withdrawing the case.

Most of the inner Cabinet, which discussed the case at length on Monday, believes that a risk to the security services is involved. Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, is understood to be

determined to oppose Mr Zamir's arguments, although he does not contest the legal right of the senior law officer to institute the prosecution. Mr Zamir has refused to make public any details of the case, which involves the deaths of two Palestinians in Shin Bet custody. They had been captured by the Army on a bus they had hijacked to Gaza in April 1984.

Photographs showed them being taken from the bus looking fit, yet they died only a few hours later.

The two secret investigations into the incident largely cleared Shin Bet, although three of its agents were dismissed. One of them supplied information at a High Court hearing about the way evidence had been prepared for the two inquiries. Mr Zamir is using this in his prosecution.

Police are being instructed to investigate complaints that evidence was tampered with, that witnesses were suborned and that documents were

withheld from the commissions of inquiry.

The case is provoking a big political storm. Four no-confidence motions were tabled against the Government in the Knesset yesterday, with support from both sides of the House.

The right wants Mr Zamir dismissed and is furious with the Government for not stopping the prosecution. The left supports him and is furious with the Government for putting pressure on him.

Mr Zamir is no stranger to controversy and has often been criticized for turning what is supposed to be a non-political job into a left-wing institution. Bowing to this criticism he has already announced that he is prepared to resign. There have been calls for limits on the Attorney-General's powers.

Yesterday, however, he made clear that he will stay on long enough to ensure that the investigation into Shin Bet is properly launched.

Street party farewell for Thatcher



Mrs Margaret Thatcher carrying flowers as she arrives in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan on the final visit of her trip to Israel. She was greeted by flags, speeches and a street party; the town is rather undistinguished, but it has the distinction of being twinned with Finchley, her constituency (Ian Murray writes from Jerusalem). In Jerusalem yesterday the Union Jacks were coming down as Mrs

Thatcher's trip ended. But in marked contrast to when this last happened 38 years ago there was no joy about it, rather a hint of sadness. Whatever it may have achieved on a political level, there can be little doubt that the visit is being seen as marking an historic turning point in the relations between the young country and the occupying power it fought to force out.

This first visit by a serving British Prime Minister has publicly put to an end the uneasy love-hate relationship which has existed between the two countries since independence. For her arrival Mrs Thatcher had carefully chosen a suit to match exactly the vivid blue markings of the white Israeli flag. Mrs Thatcher was guilty of a slip of the tongue at her final press

conference which helped to endear her to the Israelis, describing Jerusalem as "the capital" of the country, something which the world at large refuses to accept. Her progress throughout the country was little short of royal, and in Ashkelon she beamed happily when the mayor, Mr Eli Dayan, told her: "I can promise you that this constituency will always vote in your favour."

Coppola's son killed on river

Edgewater, Maryland (UPI) — The son of the film director Francis Ford Coppola was killed and actor Ryan O'Neal's son was injured when their motorboat ran under another boat's tow line.

Gian Carlo Coppola, aged 23, of Apple Valley, California, suffered massive head injuries and was dead on arrival at Anne Arundel County General Hospital. The accident occurred on the South River, off the shores of Edgewater, a tourist town near Chesapeake Bay.

Mr Griffin Patrick O'Neal, aged 21, who suffered a minor shoulder injury, had been arrested earlier in a Washington suburb and charged with reckless driving, driving without a license and carrying a concealed weapon — a ballistic knife.

Bonner's plea to Mitterrand

Paris (Reuters) — Mrs Yelena Bonner met President Mitterrand to seek his help in persuading the Kremlin to end the exile of Dr Andrei Sakharov, her husband, to the closed city of Gorky.

Mr Mitterrand, who has frequently raised the case of Dr Sakharov with the Kremlin in the past, is to travel to Moscow at the end of July to see Mr Gorbachev.

Miles wins in strong field

Bugojno, Yugoslavia (AP) — Two Soviet former world chess champions, Anatoly Karpov and Boris Spassky, both of the Soviet Union, drew their first-round game in a strong field here.

But Anthony Miles of Britain beat Ljubomir Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) after 22 moves.

Wanted man

Miami (AP) — Michael Dwayne Siebert, an 18-year-old accused of kidnapping and savagely beating a British nurse on holiday, is also wanted in the state of Maryland on charges of attempting to kill one woman and kidnapping another.

Two accused

Melbourne (AP) — Melbourne police have charged two men with murder and setting off a car bomb outside police headquarters that resulted in a 24-year-old policewoman's death and injured 21 others on March 27.

Campus toll

Lagos (AP) — The bodies of four women students have been found on the campus of Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, bringing the death toll to 19 from a clash between students and armed police.

Four held

Vancouver (Reuters) — Four men have been charged with attempted murder after the weekend shooting of Mr Malkiat Singh Sidhu, a visiting Cabinet minister from India's Punjab state.

Golden car

Monaco — A 24-carat gold-plated Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost made in 1910 which once belonged to the King of Siam has been sold by Sotheby's in Monaco for £252,700 — a European auction record for a Rolls-Royce and the highest price ever paid at auction in France for a car.

Salmon lift

Monistrol d'Allier, France (AFP) — A £110,000 lift has been constructed to allow salmon to climb a hydro-electric dam near here and return to their ancestral spawning grounds on the river Allier, in central France.

Berlin envoys put checks to the test

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Diplomats from the East Berlin embassies of Britain, the United States and France yesterday made test runs across the Berlin Wall after the row over passport checks by East German soldiers — and were allowed through without having to show their passports.

But on most occasions the East Berlin guards, after apparently consulting superiors, told them they were being allowed through "for the last time" to that way.

On Thursday the East German foreign ministry sent a letter to all embassies in East Berlin saying that their personnel would have to produce passports at the crossing points into West Berlin instead of the identity card issued by the ministry.

On Sunday the guards started to refuse crossing to diplomats who failed to do so. Italians and Danes were among diplomats who returned to East Berlin rather than show their passports.

Yesterday the wife of the Portuguese ambassador was turned back. She had wanted to cross over to meet her husband, who was arriving at Tegel airport in West Berlin. The dispute appears to have arisen out of East Germany's periodic attempts to establish that Berlin is its capital.

Britain, the United States and France say that Berlin remains an occupied city administered in sectors by the three Western powers and the Soviet Union. East Berlin remains the Soviet occupation sector, and

any change in the city's status must await a long-delayed peace treaty.

Only the Soviet Union recognises East Berlin as the East German capital. The embassies of the Western occupying powers to East Berlin are regarded by them as being in East Germany, but not situated in its capital. In official East German statements, and in its maps and road signs, the capital is referred to as Berlin, not just East Berlin.

The three Western powers oppose the showing of passports because, in their view, that would imply that the crossing points at the wall, and at the River Spree which runs through the city, constituted a national border rather than the line of an occupation sector.

In order to avoid suggesting that East Germany has any rights to the matter, Britain, the United States and France are raising the issue with the Soviet Union, as fellow occupiers.

The West Berlin daily *Tagesspiegel* reported yesterday that the Soviet Union fully supported the decision of the East German Government.

Theoretically, the three Western powers could break off diplomatic relations with East Germany if the demand for passports is pressed. The problem will be discussed today by British, US, French and West German representatives at a Nato meeting at Halifax, Canada. Leading article, page 17

Madrid decree met with call for dock strike

Madrid — A government announcement yesterday of a reorganisation of Spain's 10-day strike, paralysed by a dockworkers' strike, brought another call from dock workers (Richard Wigg writes).

By a decree law, approved at last Friday's Cabinet meeting but kept secret until yesterday, the Government decided to abolish the Port Workers' Organization and instead set up 27 port companies.

The stevedores, protesting that they were not consulted, called another 10-day strike to start next Tuesday.

Hurd in US to discuss drugs and terrorism

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, arrived here yesterday for a two-day visit which will focus on the fight against terrorism and drugs. He is expected to voice Britain's concern at the delay in Senate ratification of the US-British Extradition Treaty.

Mr Hurd is also interested in the US experience in combating drugs, especially in poor and inner city areas. He will visit a housing estate today in a black part of Washington where the residents

have fought back against drug dealers and unemployment. The low-income Kenilworth Estate was one of the city's worst drug areas when administered by the Government. Since the 400-unit estate has been turned over to its 3,000 residents the number of people on welfare has fallen dramatically and vigilantes have kept drug dealers away.

The US Administration has promised to strengthen enforcement of measures against the IRA.

A year after Heysel

Belgians relive riot horror

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The Heysel football stadium in Brussels looks peaceful enough a year after the tragedy, its giant floodlights glinting in the May sun.

But the people who live in its shadows remember vividly the appalling mayhem of the Liverpool-Juventus match in which parts of the stadium collapsed as fans fought pitched battles.

Thirty-nine people died, and although remorseful fans from Liverpool and Turin are laying wreaths for the anniversary tomorrow the violence is like a stain which fades but cannot be washed out.

"It was terrifying," a shopkeeper near the stadium said yesterday, evidently still shaken. "I only hope to God it never happens again."

Many Belgians fear that it could. They feel that the Government, while blaming Liverpool hooligans for their "murderous attacks", has failed to come to terms with the implications of the tragedy for Belgium.

The Interior Minister, Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, this week released a long-awaited report on stadium safety after Heysel. Its recommendations include stronger fencing to keep rival fans apart, improved control of access and exit points, better co-ordination between the police and visiting clubs, and a ban on alcohol.

But the report concentrates on technical points and avoids the kind of analysis to a parliamentary report last year which pinpointed deficiencies in Heysel security. Only 70 officers were inside the stadium when Z block, where British fans were concentrated, collapsed.

The European Football Association also criticized the "terrible passivity" of the Belgian police. The police chief, who was in the stadium, had to find a public phone-box to call for reinforcements.

There has been a minor shake-up in the Brussels police since Heysel. But Mr Nothomb refused to step down, and remained Interior Minister when the Martens Government was re-formed last autumn.

The extradition from Britain of 30 youths, allegedly identified as Liverpool hooligans, to face trial in Belgium this year will help the catharsis, but extradition could take months.

Meanwhile violence continues in European football — including local Belgian matches — and only low-key internationals are being played at Heysel. Late last month Belgium and Bulgaria played a World Cup warm-up game amid tight security, the first time Heysel has been used since the disaster.

Two Euro-MPs — Mr George Stevenson (Labour, Staffordshire East), and Mme Raymonde Dury, a Belgian Socialist — are organizing annual friendly matches between youngsters from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and their Belgian counterparts to try and repair the damage to Anglo-Belgian relations.

But restoring confidence in Brussels as a host of big internationals is another matter — and nobody, least of all the Brussels people, appears able even to contemplate an important match involving a British team until many more Heysel anniversaries have passed and been atoned for.

Assad gets a hearing in Athens

From a Correspondent Athens

President Assad of Syria discussed terrorism with the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, yesterday.

It is eight years since the Syrian leader last travelled to a Nato member country, and his trip here has been interpreted as an effort to counter Western accusations that Syria supports terrorism.

President Assad said Syria opposed terrorism and condemned the United States and Israel for launching armed attacks under the pretext of combating it.

But he drew a distinction between terrorism and what he called "national resistance struggles against colonialism" and "liberation". Mr Papandreu often draws the same distinction.

MOSCOW: Mr Gorbachev met Colonel Gaidarov's second-in-command, Mr Abdel Salamin Jalloud, here yesterday. It is the first visit to Moscow by a senior Libyan since the US raids last month (Reuters reports).

AMMAN: King Hassan of Jordan is trying to arrange a reconciliation meeting between the presidents of Iraq and Syria to make an early Arab summit possible. Western diplomats said.

Lebanon hit by collapse of currency

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The hopelessness of Lebanon's political and military situation has brought about a new and apparently unprecedented crisis in the country's economy: a collapse of the Lebanese pound — by more than a third in seven weeks — every bit as dramatic as the grim events which have caused its downfall.

Claims by the Shia Muslim leader, Mr Nabih Berri, that Mr Yassir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is plotting to destabilize southern Lebanon, and allegations by the Christian Phalangist commander, Mr Samir Geagea, that the Syrian security police were behind car bombings in east Beirut over the past week have helped to create the worst fall in the Lebanese pound — to 47 per cent of its value since the pound sterling — since the country gained its independence.

Already Mr Berri and Mr Camille Chamoun, the Christian Maronite Minister of Finance, are engaged in a damaging dispute over the

economy, in which the former is making thinly veiled suggestions that the country's finances have been channelled into a bank on the Christian side of the Beirut front line.

On a more real level, the cost of meat in west Beirut has risen by as much as 100 per cent in only six weeks. The price of beef has gone up from 40 to 90 Lebanese pounds (approximately £2) per kilo since early April, and mutton has gone from 85 Lebanese pounds a kilo to 150.

A fierce battle between Mr Berri's Amal militia and PLO men loyal to Mr Arafat continued for a second day around the Bourj el-Barajneh Palestinian camp in west Beirut yesterday, with warnings from

Muslim radio stations that the Phalangists were moving military equipment across the east of the city.

Mr Geagea's claims of Syrian involvement in the car bombings were accompanied by the names of those he believes to be responsible. A recent car bomb in Jounieh, he said, had been rigged in the basement of a furniture showroom in the northern city of Tripoli "under the supervision of two Syrian majors", while other bombs had been made in a converted garage in the Bekaa town of Hermel.

Mr Geagea named several Lebanese as responsible for the explosions, including a man he claims is a teacher in a Tripoli college, and a Syrian

security man whom he referred to as "Ahmed Tebbo". For his part, Mr Berri is implying that the PLO was responsible for shooting at a UN helicopter containing French parliamentarians last week for attacks on French troops of the UN force in southern Lebanon and for the murder last Saturday of Father Boutros Abi-Akl, the director of the Christian Cadmos school outside Tyre.

There are suspicions in Beirut that some of the latter deeds may have been perpetrated by Mr Berri's own co-revolutionists in the Hezbollah movement, while the east Beirut bombings could have been the work of Mr Geagea's own opponents within the Christian area north of the capital.

The irony of all this is that Mr Berri's enemies — the PLO — are also Mr Geagea's enemies; while the Syrians, who are themselves bitterly opposed to Mr Geagea, also despise Mr Arafat and his PLO supporters. As usual in Lebanon, the Palestinians are turning out to be the butt of most people's hatred.

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Bulldozers move into Crossroads

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

A dozen government bulldozers moved into the Crossroads squatter camp yesterday and began levelling the area devastated during savage faction fighting last week. More than 4,000 shacks were destroyed, at least 42 people killed and more than 20,000 left homeless.

The Government says it intends to redevelop the area for black housing but will not allow former residents to return.

The plan is to shift them to a vast new black township called Khayitsha on windswept sand dunes about 15 miles south-east of Cape Town. Most are reluctant to go because of the cost of commuting to Cape Town.

A case of typhoid was reported yesterday from one of the emergency relief centres where refugees from Crossroads have been given temporary shelter. A district council medical officer, Dr L.R. Tibbit, said instructions he had issued last week for the digging of pit latrines had not been carried out.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has issued a temporary injunction restraining the police, the Army and vigilantes from permitting or taking part in attacks on the remaining residents of Crossroads. Vigilantes are widely alleged to have been helped by police in last week's fighting.

The application for the injunction was made on Monday by six squatter leaders who claimed that the destruction of the shacks had been part of "a systematic plan". They said police and soldiers had threatened to attack other parts of the camp if these were not evacuated.



A woman fleeing the Crossroads camp with her child and a sheet of building iron as a bulldozer starts to clean up.

The vigilantes, known as "widoeke" (white handkerchiefs) from the white arm-bands they wear, are led by Mr Johnson Ngobongwana, a conservative figure who at one time ran the Crossroads settlement as a private fiefdom, exacting tithes and rents from other squatters.

In the past year of unrest, his position has been challenged by politically radical youngsters, who call themselves "the comrades" and are mostly members of the United Democratic Front, a loose alliance of more than 600 grassroots anti-apartheid organizations.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, the white chamber of Parliament, yesterday cancelled an emergency debate on the Crossroads allegations, on the grounds that the matter was *sub judice*.

The court injunction is valid until June 13 when it will lapse unless extended. Meanwhile, the police and Army will have an opportunity to present evidence rebutting the squatters' allegations.

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More political fallout after Chernobyl

EEC move to replace East bloc food ban

From Richard Owen
Brussels

The EEC yesterday moved towards a new system for monitoring radiation in imported foodstuffs to replace the outright ban on East European imports imposed earlier this month after the Chernobyl disaster.

The ban expires on Saturday, but farm ministers ruled out compensation payments from EEC coffers for European farmers who have suffered losses as a result of anti-radiation measures.

The ban on East European food was proposed by the Commission on May 6, but ran into national differences among the Twelve over a scale for measuring radiation in food traded within the EEC. The ban was held up for over a week and was only eventually adopted on condition that it would be reviewed by the end of May.

EEC ambassadors met yesterday in an attempt to agree on a new scale for monitoring radiation in food entering the EEC from all third countries. The move again encountered problems when some countries objected that the levels laid down for external trade were at odds with those in force in parts of the Community.

Finns step back from the brink

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

Finland's Rural party yesterday backed away from causing a government crisis and withdrew a motion which demanded the dismantling of the nation's four nuclear reactors by the year 2000.

The party is a junior partner in the four-party centre-left coalition of the Prime Minister, Mr Kalevi Sorsa, and its populist policies have led to frequent clashes.

Mr Sorsa made it clear that the Government would resign if the Rural party did not withdraw its motion, which he said would undermine the coalition's ability to handle energy policies.

The Rural party's parliamentary group needed only a short morning meeting to toe the line. Collapse of the Government would almost certainly have meant snap elections, and the party is doing badly in the opinion polls.

These difficulties were the motive behind the strongly anti-nuclear motion because the party badly needs new incentives.

The motion was a clear expression of how sensitive the nuclear power question has become in Finland, a country which produces more than 40 per cent of its electricity.

Environmentalists have campaigned against ordering a

fifth 1,000-megawatt reactor, and most parties were in difficulties with their rank and file even before Chernobyl. The disaster hit like lightning in the middle of a tense internal debate, and the fifth reactor will not now be ordered before the next elections in March 1987, if ever.

Mr Sorsa's coalition faces another test next week when it

UK strategy review

Mrs Thatcher will review Britain's preparedness to face a nuclear disaster (Jan Murray writes from Jerusalem). During her visit to Israel she met Dr Yair Reiser, who was invited to Moscow to help carry out some marrow transplant surgery on Chernobyl victims. He told her precious time was lost in tissue typing those who had been exposed and that this had made treatment difficult.

defends its actions against a no-confidence motion from the Conservative opposition.

This criticizes the Government's inability to give accurate and quick information about the effects of the Chernobyl accident.

The Government's handling of the disaster caused an immediate outcry because it also fed unfounded rumours about dangerously high radioactivity levels.

Abe heads for cool reception

From David Watts
Tokyo

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, walks into the bear's cage tomorrow. He is likely to get a cool reception in Moscow on Chernobyl and terrorism, and will find himself having to account, as the representative of the chairman of the seven Western summit nations, for their stance on both issues.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry admits that the Soviet reaction, particularly on Chernobyl, is likely to be "fierce" and may well overshadow any hopes that the Japanese have of progress on bilateral issues.

Mr Abe will also be explaining the summit nations' assessment of the present state of East-West relations in the absence of the meeting between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, which was to have been held this month.

The Japanese are keen to institutionalize meetings between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, but that hardly accounts for the choice of what is an awkward moment when Moscow can make full play of Japan's endorsement of apparently anti-Soviet positions.

The timing has more to do with Japanese domestic politics than international considerations - Mr Abe is likely to be a strong candidate to replace the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, this autumn and would like to have a successful visit to Moscow among his credentials.

Mr Abe's visit will be brief so the chances of progress must be slim, unless Moscow's desire for Japanese technology tips the balance.

Kohl goes on nuclear offensive

From Frank Johnson
Bonn

The Christian Democrats (CDU), who have been on the defensive for weeks about whether the Chernobyl disaster proves that nuclear power is unsafe in West Germany, have begun a counter-offensive to show it proves nothing of the sort.

Chancellor Kohl said the Government will check safety in all nuclear plants and emphasized that Chernobyl tells us more about the Soviet Union in general than about nuclear power in general.

"The inadequate information policy of the Soviet Union after the reactor accident in Chernobyl has not strengthened confidence in Soviet arms control proposals, especially in their verification," he said.

Vigorous remarks to a meeting of young Christian Democrats last Monday got Kohl wide press coverage when he said: "It's pathetic of the SPD (Social Democrats) to say 'We're going to shut nuclear power plants down soon'." He described the widespread West German opposition to nuclear power as "stupid cultural pessimism".

The Prime Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Herr Lothar Späth, said a short-term abandoning of nuclear energy would have catastrophic ecological consequences.

And the Federal Minister of Research and Technology, Herr Hans Riesenhaner, said the renunciation of nuclear energy by industrial nations would have direct consequences for the Third World.

If the world's developed nations bought up the limited amounts of fossil energy it would create additional difficulties for those with growing populations, he said.

The Christian Democrat counter-offensive has come not a moment too soon for the party's candidates in the Lower Saxony Land election on June 15.

Chernobyl seems to have turned this into a close contest - with the SPD now favourites to take over government from the CDU. But it is probably too late to decide the outcome.

There remains, however, the general election, due next January. A leading opinion poll said Chernobyl had affected public opinion more than the 1962 Cuba crisis.

Honduras seeks reward for backing Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Azcona of Honduras is seeking to wring more aid out of a reluctant United States in return for continued support of President Reagan's assault on Nicaragua.

Without Honduran help the Contra battle would certainly collapse. It might do so anyway if Congress next month rejects Mr Reagan's request for \$100 million (£66 million) in aid for the rebels.

The two presidents met at the White House yesterday to discuss the rebels' crisis and to study the outcome of the summit of Central American leaders in Guatemala at the weekend, which failed to produce a substantial regional peace agreement.

Honduras is clearly following a highly dangerous course in throwing in its lot so enthusiastically with America's anti-Sandinista campaign. Should the Contras disintegrate, Honduras would have to deal with about 10,000 homeless fighters and their relatives.

President Azcona, who was elected three months ago, has delighted the Reagan Administration by publicly supporting the onslaught against Nicaragua.

No match for a lady

New York (Reuter) - A purse-snatcher was in jail yesterday because he tried to rob an English aristocrat, aged 87. Lady Sarah Tucker was near her Fifth Avenue flat when José Ramos, aged 30, sped by on his bicycle and

snatched her handbag. A police spokesman said: "Lady Sarah chased him and caught up with him at a traffic light. She knocked him off his bicycle and started beating him about the head with her umbrella. Police arrived... to find Ramos cowering."

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US goes in spoils at East-

Dobrynin to centre

Carrington and Wimpson

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

US goes out on a limb in spoiling consensus at East-West meeting

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The United States yesterday isolated itself from the other 34 countries at the Bern conference on East-West human contacts by refusing at the last minute to endorse the final declaration.

Western delegations shared the British view that this was a disappointing end to six weeks of discussions which had at least produced indications that Soviet bloc countries were aware that some of the restrictions on their people must be relaxed.

The final document, a compromise put forward by Switzerland on behalf of the neutral and non-aligned nations, was seen as a step in the right direction.

The US delegation had given the impression that it would go along with a consensus after consulting Washington. Its leader, Mr Michael Novak, intimated that the credibility of the Helsinki process would be undermined were the US to associate itself with so "slight" a document, devoid of measures to ensure compliance with its objectives.

The general conclusion was that administration hardliners had ordered a veto.

The Soviet delegation, saying it regretted this negative

attitude, asked the Americans to reconsider their position and doubted whether "ordinary people" would understand it.

"The draft final declaration we ended up with had in our view some good things in it," Sir Anthony Williams, leader of the British delegation, said. "But one of the things about the whole Helsinki process is that it's a matter of bating on, trying to press for better observation of undertakings that have been entered into."

"Here, we were attempting to ensure that in human contacts things do not move less smoothly than they need. In many of these things we may have achieved something."

The Swiss delegate, Mr Edouard Brunner, remarked: "One cannot do diplomacy with amateurs."

Mr Niall MacDermott, Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists, said: "It would surely have been better to accept the compromise proposals in the draft declaration, which, even if modest, would have created a better atmosphere for the Helsinki review conference opening in November in Vienna."

"The US demands were

hardly realistic in the present situation of East-West tension, which the US seems anxious to prolong."

The final draft was estimated by its compilers to have 20 per cent more provisions of substance than the document that emerged in 1983 from the first Helsinki review conference in Madrid, and about 40 per cent more than the 1975 Helsinki Final Act itself.

The purpose of the conference of experts was to examine the extent to which provisions of the Helsinki declaration were being respected and determine how they could be more effective.

The compromise draft set out proposals for facilitating family meetings and reunifications — with particular consideration for children — and for eliminating obstacles to East-West marriages "provided personal and professional circumstances permit".

Other proposals concerned private and professional travel and improving conditions for individual or group tourism.

Another measure aimed to end interference in East-West postal and telephone services.

Religious institutions were to be allowed to exchange visits and organize gatherings and pilgrimages.



Ernest Wheeler, aged three, and his five-year-old sister, Jina, who lost their uncle in the Vietnam war, holding their ears during a 21-gun Memorial Day salute in Dallas, Texas.

Tass correspondent goes missing

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

A correspondent at the Helsinki office of the official Soviet news agency, Tass, has disappeared, according to unconfirmed reports.

The Soviet Embassy has asked Finnish police to look for the family of Mr Raivo

United States.

The exact nature of tasks undertaken by Mr Ojasaar are not known, but the Helsinki evening paper, *Ilta-Sanomien*, speculates that he has connections with one of the Soviet intelligence agencies.

Wife was the pilot in Paris jailbreak

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The mysterious woman who piloted the helicopter in the spectacular getaway from the Santé prison in Paris was the escaped prisoner's wife, police confirmed yesterday. She appears to have been preparing herself for the daring flight for the past eight months.

Police named the woman as Nadine Bourgain, aged 35, who had married Michel Vaujour, jailed last year for 18 years for armed robbery, while he was in prison in 1979, serving a sentence for another robbery. The couple have a daughter, aged five.

Vaujour escaped from the Santé prison on Monday after scrambling aboard a helicopter, flown by his wife, as it hovered above the roof of the prison. Cahles had previously been stretched across the courtyard of the prison to prevent helicopters from landing for such an escape bid.

Using the false name of Léna Rigon, Nadine Bourgain had gone in a helicopter school in the Haute Savoie last August to prepare herself for her husband's break-out.

On returning to the Paris region, where she lives, she continued to fly, hiring an Alouette 2 — the same type of helicopter used in the escape.

Brussels strike runs out of steam

From Richard Owen, Brussels

This month's wave of public-sector strikes protesting against budget cuts of nearly £3 billion yesterday showed signs of petering out in the face of the Government's determination not to back down.

Public transport, postal and rubbish collection services were expected to return to normal this week. Brussels airport has already resumed normal operations.

Belgian teachers in both private and state schools yesterday went against the general trend by coming out on strike, for fear that recent educational reforms might be undermined by the cuts.

But government officials doubted that the teachers' action would breathe new life into the strike movement and said that Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, expected to survive a vote of no confidence in Parliament today.

The trade unions have called a further one-day strike and national demonstration for Saturday.

The centre-right coalition Government has condemned attempts by the Socialist unions to spread the strike action to private companies.

Moscow's canny Kissinger

Dobrynin moves to centre stage

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The cordial, and occasionally even jovial, meeting between British parliamentarians and a Soviet delegation led by Mr Gorbachev has confirmed that Mr Anatoly Dobrynin is now playing a central role in Soviet foreign policy-making.

Tall and avuncular, with 24 years of diplomatic back-slapping in Washington behind him, Mr Dobrynin, in his new post as one of the 11 secretaries of the Communist Party's ruling Central Committee, has become the catalyst for the biggest shake-up in Moscow's foreign policy machine for years.

After Monday's meeting in the Kremlin — both Lord Whitlaw, the deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Denis Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary, remarked on the part played by the former Washington envoy in the two-and-a-half hours of talks. They said Mr Dobrynin's command of English was such that on more than one occasion he had to step in and provide the nuance for a particular phrase.

As head of the Central Committee's international department, he has been described by more than one Western diplomat as the Soviet Henry Kissinger. Until his recent return to Moscow, the committee's influence had been badly eroded, both by the age of his predecessor, Mr Boris Ponomarev, and the power of Mr Andrei Gromyko, who was only moved upstairs from the Foreign Ministry to the presidency last July.

The comparison with Mr Kissinger comes not only from a similar intellectual deftness, but also because of the new weight given to the Communist Party in the crucial field of foreign policy.

One Kremlin-watcher explained: "If the Foreign Ministry is the equivalent of the US State Department, the committee under Dobrynin is becoming the National Security Council... As the communist system fully intended, the minister's role in formulating policy is being downgraded."

At the age of 66, Mr Dobrynin is regarded by American politicians as the Soviet official with the closest understanding of the Western mind. He is also seen as holding a genuine wish for some form of coexistence between East and West. "During most of his time in Washington, he was the very

epitome of it (coexistence)," one American observer said yesterday.

Although Mr Dobrynin's taste for the good things of life may be out of tune with the new atmosphere of austerity being encouraged inside the Kremlin, his proven ability to sell Soviet policies to the West is known to be greatly prized by Mr Gorbachev.

In the policy-making field, he is being assisted by another American specialist, Mr Georgy Kornienko, who was moved from the position of First Deputy Foreign Minister, adding to the switch in influence from ministry to party. His other deputy is the well-respected Mr Vadim Zagladin.

Mr Gorbachev's successful meeting with the British dele-



Mr Dobrynin, leading the foreign policy shake-up.

gation followed last week's important in-camera Kremlin conference, which signified a wholesale revamp of Soviet diplomacy and set the seal for Mr Dobrynin's new position of influence.

Mr Healey said the shake-up in the foreign affairs machine was one reason why recent arms control initiatives launched by Mr Gorbachev have failed to produce material results in Soviet negotiating positions at Geneva and elsewhere. "The trouble is that in recent months some of these people have just not known who their real boss was," he said.

Although Monday's get-together was public proof of Mr Dobrynin's influence, the MPs indicated it was also proof that Soviet foreign policy was now fully in the hands of the Kremlin leader. "There was no question that Mr Gorbachev was the man really in charge," one MP said. "It was an impressive performance."

Carrington worried by 'wimps' and 'cowboys'

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, yesterday gave a warning of the dangers of "megaphone cartoonery" on both sides of the Atlantic, "with Eurowimps in one set of papers and American cowboys in the other".

He was speaking on the eve of the six-monthly Nato foreign ministers' meeting, which opens in Halifax, Nova Scotia, tomorrow.

Before leaving for Halifax today, Lord Carrington said in Montreal that Nato need not be unduly gloomy and had shown that it had the resilience to overcome difficulties.

Headlines and cartoons about European-American differences within the alliance would not last for ever. "But the attitudes they reflect may prove long-lived and need to be taken seriously," he said.

Referring to a recent contentious issue within Nato — how to deal with terrorism in general and Libya in particular — Lord Carrington said the Nato treaty spoke of a commitment to mutual help in the event of an attack in Europe or North America.

Libya was clearly out of the Nato area, and the American action was a purely national one, he said.

But the US could have invoked the Nato treaty when American ships came under Libyan fire in the Mediterranean. Italy could also have invoked it when Libyan rockets were fired at the island of Lampedusa.

He said there was a danger of falling back from the higher levels many Nato members had achieved in defence budgets.

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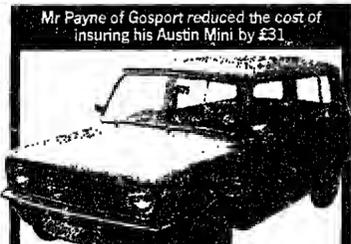
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ADVERTISING CONTINUED ON PAGE 30.

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Lange tour worries opponents

Right against might

Amnesty International has been tracking torture and brutality for 25 years.

Caroline Moorehead reflects on its aims and successes



In Littlehampton, on the south coast, a retired pensioner sets off on his bicycle every morning with a saddle-bag full of leaflets and campaigning material. He knocks on doors, calls at offices, drops in on local church groups. What he is peddling is information: about Amnesty International, the human rights organization which this today celebrates its 25th anniversary; about its campaigns on torture and political killings; and about all the prisoners held around the world indefinitely and without charge or trial. His degree of dedication may appear impressive, but it is not unique: all over the world — AI has members in over 150 countries — other men on other bicycles are doing the same.

Often they come home disappointed. Concern for the misfortunes of others, particularly people incarcerated in countries far away, is a hard thing to peddle. But they have other activities to keep their morale high. The AI group in Littlehampton has recently merged with the one in Worthing. Together, the supporters number some 50 people, of whom 25 are hard-working. They are mostly elderly but extraordinarily keen. Their adopted prisoner is a Syrian, and the group has just embarked on a 100-day letter campaign, inundating the Syrian government with daily protest. The last six years have seen five of their adopted prisoners released. This is the most heartening result of all.

And yet Amnesty International's influence on the world's continual violation of basic

Torture, solitary confinement and murder by death squad cannot be so readily ignored

human rights impossible to assess. Cause and effect cannot be measured. Littlehampton and Worthing have been lucky: most adopted prisoners stay in prison.

AI's birth — out of an article in *The Observer* by a British lawyer called Peter Benenson calling the world's attention to the "forgotten prisoners" — is well known. After that, in rapid jumps, the organization grew. A budget of just over £7,000 in 1962 has become one of £6.4 million today, with 500,000 members working on behalf of some 4,500 prisoners. In the last couple of years, AI has been touching new ground: it has moved into Third World countries, and its groups are now spreading steadily across Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. To its many other activities has been added a network for dealing quickly with unexpected occurrences, like sudden short detentions, so that prisoners in countries like South Africa, where repeated spells of brief detention have become routine, can be helped instantly.

As the organization has spread, so its scope and interests have widened. To the adoption of prisoners and their allocation to groups for special attention has been added world-wide campaigning on most of the major human rights issues of the day, while repeated missions to countries have formed the basis for detailed and respected reports, receiving wide publicity. How much AI can be credited with the new protocols on torture and the death penalty cannot be calculated; but its repeated campaigning against torture is widely agreed to be among its finest work.

Like any group of its kind, AI has had its internal problems — though it is remarkable for having had only two secretary generals — and continues to have its critics. Other human rights organizations are irritated by its exclusiveness and its refusal to join group



Jamal Benomar: an "unknown prisoner" sustained by the knowledge he was known around the world

A HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL GRIEF

- 1961: May 28. Amnesty International formed after a British lawyer called Peter Benenson appealed on behalf of the "Forgotten Prisoners". In the weeks that followed, hundreds of newspapers, all over the world, wrote about the new organization.
- 1962: First annual report: 210 adopted prisoners; missions to Ghana, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, East Germany. 70 AI groups in seven countries.
- 1963: International Secretariat set up in London.
- 1964: United Nations gives AI consultative status.
- 1965: AI publishes reports on prison conditions in Portugal, South Africa and Romania.
- 1966: Torture becomes subject of particular concern.
- 1967: Fifth annual report: 2,000 adopted prisoners; 550 groups in 18 countries.
- 1968: Martin Ennals becomes Secretary General.
- 1969: Greece withdraws from Council of Europe after two-year AI campaign investigating torture. AI has 15,000 members. Budget: £23,000.
- 1970: AI circulates English translation of Soviet *Samizdat: A Chronicle of Current Events*.
- 1971: AI commission inquires into Ulster torture allegations.
- 1972: World-wide campaign for the abolition of torture launched.
- 1973: Flight of 100,000 detainees in South Vietnam highlighted.
- 1974: AI reports human rights abuses — torture, summary executions — in Chile.
- 1975: Report on the treatment of political and religious prisoners in the USSR. AI has 1,522 groups, 7,000 members in 65 countries. Budget: £272,000.
- 1976: Despite death of Franco, Spain is found to be continuing its use of torture.
- 1977: Conference on the abolition of the death penalty.
- 1978: Reports on the long-term detention of political prisoners in Cuba and atrocities in Uganda.
- 1979: Report on human rights violations against children.
- 1980: Focus on prisoners of conscience forcibly confined in Soviet psychiatric hospitals.
- 1981: "Disappearances": a world-wide campaign on behalf of the missing. AI has 250,000 members in 151 countries.
- 1982: Report on human rights abuses in Pakistan.
- 1983: Political killings by governments documented in over 20 countries.
- 1984: New drive against torture: reports from 88 countries.
- 1985: Focus on disappearances in Peru and torture in Iraq. Campaign on behalf of conscientious objectors to military service.
- 1986: AI at 25: 500,000 members campaigning on behalf of over 4,500 prisoners. Budget: £5.4m.

appeals or protests, insisting on voicing its opinions on its own or not at all, a little self-satisfied, a little smug.

But even critics say that this fault is trivial compared with the extreme competence and dedication of the people who work for Amnesty — some 500 staff, 200 of them at the International Secretariat in London, with many highly qualified people heading research departments, paid a pale shadow of what they would earn elsewhere — and the fact that, more than any other organization of its kind, it has made people think. Even the most casual newspaper reader today cannot fail to know that torture has become systematic in at least 60 countries, or that children are "disappearing" in the highlands of Peru; and the human rights records of different countries and different political parties have become as significant as their economic performance and their domestic policies. As the director of another human rights group puts it, Amnesty has managed to "personalize human disaster".

Torture, endless solitary confinement and murder by death squads have not gone away, but they can no longer be so readily ignored.

Jamal Benomar was a 19-year-old student in sociology at Rabat University when, at midnight on January 9, 1976, eight secret service men broke into his house and carted him and his books away to a nearby detention centre. The sociology books and papers, bundled into boxes, were useful proof later that Jamal Benomar was a dangerous subversive.

He was, in fact, a member of En Avant, a banned group, mainly consisting of teachers and students, who had come together in 1970 to protest against political repression in Morocco and to petition for better education and health facilities as well as for free elections. Its magazine, *Hal Anam*, argued strongly against the war in the western Sahara, saying that the King would do better to negotiate a settlement with the Polisario. They knew that this would irritate the government.

The story of what happened to Jamal Benomar is depressingly familiar, the fate of many who oppose an oppressive regime: the outcome, however, is a happy one, and, better than many in his position, he has a clear idea of what Amnesty International was able to do for him.

Jamal spent the first four days of his captivity blindfolded, handcuffed and continually tortured by men who drank whisky as they tied him hanging from a bar between two desks, his head plunged in a bucket of excrement. From Rabat he was moved to Tangiers. There was no bed and no blankets in his cell, and he wore only the jeans in which he had been arrested. It was mid-winter. Food was one loaf of bread a day. There were no visits, no letters.

Still blindfolded and handcuffed, he was moved on to Casablanca, to the notorious Derb Moulay Cherif detention centre. Part of the torture consisted of keeping the prisoners permanently awake. He was put in a small cell with four others, but they were threatened with torture if they spoke to one another. He could hear the screams of new arrivals in neighbouring cells.

It was now that what had seemed a future without hope abruptly altered. Jamal was transferred to a civilian prison in Casablanca, where he was one of 130 political prisoners. Informed that they would receive no trial, the prisoners agreed to hunger strike. The King of Morocco was on a visit to France at the time. News of the strike spread. Seventeen days later, a date was set for the trial.

By now, Amnesty International was aware of what was happening. They had observers at the trial — the prisoners were charged with attempting

to overthrow the monarchy and setting up an illegal organization. Nothing could be done to ensure an unbiased hearing or to reduce the sentences (10 years for Jamal, up to 30 for others, with five sentenced to life imprisonment), but a campaign was building up across the world to agitate the prisoners' behalf.

Jamal was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by the Stockholm Amnesty group. Letters flowed in. The governor began to treat him rather more cautiously, especially after a phone call came through late one night from Sweden. What seemed to amaze the governor was the fact that anyone cared about an unknown young man in a Moroccan jail. It was unerving to be reminded that, if anything happened to him, the world would know, Jamal was no less bewildered, but profoundly heartened.

Always among the first to be arrested

Conditions did not improve instantly. Prisoners were split into groups and moved to different jails, to prevent collusion. Attacks by prison guards injured several of them, and the rights to study, to receive medical care and to get out of solitary confinement were only won after a 45-day hunger strike, on the fortieth day of which a young woman teacher died.

During all this time, AI and other human rights organizations in Europe were keeping up a continual crusade of protest. Through the rats, the inadequate food and the appalling medical facilities continued, small concessions, one after the other, were won: the right to talk, to receive visits, to study. "Everything helped," he says, "but Amnesty was at the front. Something had happened, and they became careful how they treated us."

On November 23, 1983, largely through the intervention of a friendly professor of sociology, Jamal was released. He had been in captivity for nearly eight years. He returned to his home town in the north. It took him only a few months to realize that Morocco was no longer a safe place for him to live. At every demonstration, every act of opposition, he was among the first to be arrested.

A year later, having been refused a passport, he managed to escape, again with Amnesty's help, and reached Britain, where he has been granted political asylum. Two weeks after arriving, he married Joyce Edling, a member of the AI group in Stockholm who had visited him in prison. Knowing only of James Joyce, Jamal had long imagined her to be a man.

The almost intolerable pressures that head teachers now face will be high on the agenda at their annual conference

Testing time for heads

Until recently, a head teacher had a fairly straightforward job. He — it was rarely she — may not have worn a gavel and cracked a whip but he was respected and obeyed by teacher and pupil alike. Immune from parental moans and local authority edicts, he could run his school as he wished with minimum paperwork and maximum discretion.

That is no longer the case. The pressures have grown immeasurably as society has demanded more of schools, and teachers have grown increasingly disenchanted with their lot. The job of the average head has changed beyond all recognition in the past 15 years. He is now accountable to everyone and his priority is the "client" — child, parent, employer or politician.

Where once he could retreat to his study for a little cogitation, he now spends all day talking to people — to his staff to try and cheer them up, to a parent worried by a child's performance, to the chief education officer inquiring after teachers' industrial action, to the school governors about everything.

At the end of his working day he may have to take home more and more paperwork in order to catch up with form-filling, reports to governors and letters to parents.

Few head teachers would say the job was not extremely stressful some of the time. As their unions are fond of pointing out, this has led to significant numbers developing medical problems or taking early retirement. Local education authorities are finding it difficult to recruit heads

as the job becomes more complicated and the pressures more evident.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, whose union's annual conference begins in Cardiff today, says that heads have been expected for too long to accept every new educational initiative. They have had to absorb every new pressure uncomplainingly and irrespective of resources or whether they have the cooperation of staff.

"They are saying they have had enough. If teachers are demanding protection through a tighter contract, then we are entitled to that too. We demand proper resourcing and support for the work we are expected to do.

"I am sick and tired of hearing that heads are accountable to every Tom, Dick and Harry. We have got to have a contract defined in terms of line management through the governing body, the local education authority, and we should stop expecting heads to be accountable to everybody, including society at large."

The teachers' action meant that some heads had to do dinner duty virtually unaided. It has made it more difficult to get methodical work from students and, according to Michael Marland, head of North Westminster School in London, it has replaced the school's organizational structure with one created by the National Union of Teachers.

All heads say the job can be very satisfying, and that great things can still be done. "We have gone through a period of agonizing transformation", says Michael Pipes, head of City of Portsmouth boys' school. "We have got to pick ourselves up now and say that we have a vision for the future."

Lucy Hodges

FOUR REPORTS

● For John Rex, aged 60 (salary £17,000 a year), head of the 600-pupil Halton Middle School in Leeds, the worst pressures are those imposed by local politicians. He has decided to retire early because he has had enough.

"I felt when I first became a head that I was master of my own ship and, within reason, could not be unfairly interfered with. Today I feel that a head is subject to all sorts of pressures from other people."

The job has been made increasingly stressful by the teachers' action, with heads caught between their disenchanted staff and angry parents. "I think most heads regard their school as their own, and anything which disrupts it is taken personally. "I

know perfectly well that staff in my school are not taking action personally against me, but I can't help feeling there is something personal about it. "For all I've said, I don't think I would have wished to do another job. I enjoyed being a head teacher up until four or five years ago. Since then an awful lot of fun has gone out of it."

● Michael Marland, aged 51 (salary £23,500 including London allowance), is head of North Westminster School in west London. He identifies the biggest single change as the greater accountability to parents, school governors and the community at large. "Things which were done in a peremptory way have been done now through complex procedures. Heads used to be able to set departmental budgets in the

enthusiasm and willingness of his staff. "I would have been fairly consumed with the quality of the curriculum, based on carefully laid out foundations. I would have been much more isolated from parents and politicians and left to get on with the job."

"Now I have to spend much more time and effort explaining what I am doing but the biggest extra demand is defining morale in the staff room."

Lucy Hodges

For him the teachers' pay dispute has been "a disaster". He supervises 850 pupils from the upper school on his own at lunchtime because none of his teachers will do this job.

Despite it all, he finds being a head "a marvellous job". He is full of praise for the Inner London Education Authority and the support it gives, and says there is less tension and violence in London schools than previously.

● Michael Pipes, aged 48, (salary £23,500 a year) is head of the 1,200-pupil City of Portsmouth Boys' School. He likens his job to that of a chief executive in industry and says he is production, quality control and personnel manager rolled into one. He works a 50 to 60 hour week. "We are now having to work so hard to manage an inadequately resourced service that the stress levels are becoming apparent", he says.

When he became head of the school 11 years ago, he would have taken for granted the range of customers but without the sort of resources we need. We operate under such a range of new constraints that there are real pressures generated. I welcome the accountability, but I resent the failure of society as a whole to recognize that schools are doing a different and bigger job nowadays."

Describing the last 18 months as "gritty", he said he had watched the values of the education system being eaten away by the teachers' pay dispute.

Lucy Hodges



We don't think your boss will like it, Mr. Ridley

Despite urgent warnings from ourselves, The National Canine Defence League, The British Veterinary Association, The National Farmers Union, and other key organisations, it is reported that the Department of the Environment is planning to abolish the dog licence.

An estimated half million unwanted dogs are roaming the country causing a catalogue of serious problems — road accidents, spreading

canine disease, fouling, attacking livestock, even attacking children. Massive dog overproduction is the root cause, and a sensible new licensing system to curb owner irresponsibility is vital. By scrapping controls, the Government is simply washing its hands of the problem. We believe it is a serious miscalculation that will backfire badly on the Environment Secretary.

So, Mr. Ridley, we implore you to reconsider. Before it's too late.



Charity in Action

Help us fight dog licence abolition

Write now to the Environment Secretary or your MP at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1.

I support the RSPCA campaign against dog licence abolition.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I enclose a donation of £ _____

or charge my Access/Bardycard No. _____

Return coupon with your donation to RSPCA, FREEPOST, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1ZA

Tomorrow

Down Mexico way . . .



On the books page, Peter Ackroyd reviews *The Old Gingo*, the latest novel by Carlos Fuentes (above), set south of the border at the time of the revolution.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 961

ACROSS

- 1 Malay skirt (6)
- 4 Limited (6)
- 7 Prohibition (4)
- 8 Was amazed (8)
- 9 Witty reply (8)
- 13 Ruddy (3)
- 16 Of garden cultivation (13)
- 17 Mammal foot (3)
- 19 Soak (8)
- 24 Elaborate dress (8)
- 25 Clip quickly (14)
- 26 Perspiring (6)
- 27 Write in symbols (6)

DOWN

- 1 Fiji capital (4)
- 2 Hyde Park ride (6,3)
- 3 W Wales peninsula (5)
- 4 Evade question (5)
- 5 Require (4)
- 6 Not those (5)
- 10 Assumed name (5)
- 11 Tanizaki (5)
- 12 Go in (5)
- 13 Zenda kingdom (9)
- 14 Valley (4)
- 15 Follow (4)
- 16 Bow weapon (5)
- 20 Impressively display (15)
- 21 Policy reversal (11)
- 22 French-Swiss range (4)
- 23 Sword (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 960

ACROSS: 1 Swivel 5 Pace 8 Ought 9 Macabre 11 Euroract 13 Moist 23 Hyde 24 Tureen

DOWN: 2 Wager 3 Yai 4 Lombard Street 5 Pace 6 Ribbing 7 Moire 20 Sole 22 Mar

THE TIMES DIARY

For Maggie read Mary

The continuing strain on Anglo-Argentine relations seems to be permeating the film industry. The director Maria Luisa Bemberg has made a movie in which Julie Christie plays an English governess who revisits Argentina and has a love affair with a former charge, a young Argie film discovery called Donald McIntyre. The title was to have been *Miss Maggie*, which would have carried overtones of the nation's least favourite foreign statesperson, dubbed by the press as Senora No during the Falklands war. Now the film is to be called *Miss Mary*. Boring.

Testimony

Religion, not romance, has been on Barbara Cartland's mind this week. From her country house in Hertfordshire she is planning the next moves in her campaign to have daily worship and weekly instruction in the Christian faith reintroduced in all state schools. The 84-year-old novelist took up the cause as her 1982 New Year resolution and has had many a thud of encouraging correspondence on her doormat. "I've heard from three or four clergymen," she reports, "and they say they wished the Archbishop of Canterbury thought like me."

Spadework

Lobbying the European Commission in Brussels is certainly a growth industry. Peter Pooley, the EEC's deputy director general for agriculture, tells me that among the 3,000 organizations who bend his ear are the Danish Federated Incorporated Mars Bar and Curant Bun Manufacturers and the Peloponnesian Association of Allied Dried Fig and Pistachio Nut Processors and Wholesalers.

Talking Turkey

Some intriguing translations from a restaurant menu to Istanbul. *Doner Kebab* is rendered as Lamp grilled vertical spit; *Sis Kebab* as Skewered lamb; *Adana Kebab* as Spicy ground mince, and *Bursa Kebab*, somewhat unhelpfully, as Bursa Kebab. *Koristik izgara* becomes Grilled mixed. *Firinda Kuzusallı Pide* with chopped meat, while *Pirzola* presents itself to the English eye as Cullied. The item which perplexes me most, however, is *Kofak Tatli*, which is translated as Caniled Squach.

One Harley Street patient at least is laughing all the way to the consultant. The lift indicator at the practice of cardiologist Richard Sutton, he tells me, is marked floor one, two, three and by-pass.

Going for broke

After merger-mania I can reveal that the latest craze to sweep the City is burger-mania: £400 is currently riding on a wager between Eurobond dealers trying to be the first in the Square Mile to eat six Big Mac hamburgers in 40 minutes. During the last contest one young City man organized a complex financial arrangement to guard against loss, if the task proved too much. Having munched his way through the required number of burgers, he was immediately confronted by his underwriters who demanded all the winnings.

Long hop

A prompt response to my request for a better form of words than *Hisden's "29 not out"* to describe the innings of Andrew Ducat, who died at the crash of a Lord's fixture in 1942. A Beconsfield reader offers "Dead bat", "Bailed out", and "Deep and wide". From Exeter comes the proposal "Retired inert". I have also heard from a Bedfordshire eye-witness who was a schoolboy at the time and was much distressed by his hero's death. His choice: "Retired, called up".

BARRY FANTONI



"There must be something we could do with 20 million slightly used T-shirts"

Persuasion

Despairing of students returning books by the end of term, Cambridge University's Archaeology and Anthropology library hit on a novel incentive. Assistant librarian Aidan Baker wrote to borrowers: "I intend to donate 1p to Conservative Party funds for every overdue notice I send out... Please help me to keep the sum as low as possible by returning all loans on time." With more than 200 borrowers, he ended up sending 86p to Central Office. "It's been suggested that at the end of this term we threaten to send cash to Militant," he told me.

PHS

Homeless over a barrel

by Bruce Douglas-Mann

The 1977 Housing (Homeless Persons) Act was passed, with all-party support, because Parliament recognized that the homeless were in acute social need. Local authorities were given a new legal duty: to house those in "priority need" — principally the old, the sick, those with young families — who lacked accommodation.

Parliament was conscious of a danger. The duty it laid on local authorities might be used by people, seeking transfers from highrise blocks and other unpopular accommodation to something better, to jump the queue.

Parliament did not, therefore, include a definition of what constituted "accommodation" in the legislation. It seemed obvious that a family whose only shelter was not large enough to accommodate its members, or which did not include basic amenities for cooking, washing or eating, did not have accommodation within the meaning of the Act. It was therefore entitled to its protection.

For years this view was supported by the courts. In a case brought against Wyre Borough Council in 1982 all three judges in the Court of Appeal agreed that accommodation must be appro-

priate to the needs of the family.

But in the case of Puhlhofer v. Hillingdon Borough Council, decided earlier this year, the House of Lords overruled both the Court of Appeal and common sense. When a council decides whether a person or family with a place, of sorts, to sleep in, is homeless for the purposes of the Act, it turns out there are no rules. The only guidance offered by the Lords to those local authorities which want to fulfil their minimum legal obligation was that "it would be a misuse of language to describe Diogenes as having occupied accommodation within the meaning of the Act".

Diogenes lived in a barrel. The accommodation with which the case was concerned was, admittedly, better than that; but for Britain in 1986 (and without a Mediterranean climate) not all that better.

The case concerned a husband and wife who, with two young children, occupied a single room containing a double and a single bed, baby's cradle, dressing table, pram and sterilizing unit. The room was in a guest house which had no cooking facilities; its three bathrooms were shared by 36 people. All meals except breakfast had to be

obtained out; all washing had to be done in a launderette. This, the House of Lords concluded, was "accommodation" for a family with an income of £78 per week. The Homeless Persons Act, it decided, imposed no duty on Hillingdon Council to find them something better suited to their needs.

This was clearly a perversion of Parliament's intention and gives scope to all local authorities who wish to evade their responsibilities.

This government has often taken rapid legislative action to assert its authority when the courts have declared its actions illegal. That is its constitutional right; Parliament, even when many of us think it is wrong, must rule.

The Homeless Persons Act, however, was passed because all parties in Parliament recognized the need for it. The courts have now largely destroyed it. Will the government reassert the authority of Parliament? If not, will Parliament itself support a Private Members Bill to do so?

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The author is a member of the board of Shelter and Alliance prospective parliamentary candidate for Mitcham & Morden. He was Labour MP for Mitcham & Morden, 1974-82.

Nicholas Bethell on the 'last chance' option that Pretoria spurns

All South Africa waits for Nelson Mandela. He is the stuff of which myths are made. Blacks revere him as the messiah who will deliver them from humiliation. Whites cringe from him as from the avenging angel who one day will chastise them for their sins. It needs a sharp wrench of the mind's eye for any South African to see him as anything else.

Yet there are some now who perceive a third role for Mandela: that of statesman and diplomat, the only man who could perhaps reconcile South Africa's communities and avoid civil war. The idea is based on what he has said these past 18 months in Brigadier F.C. Munro's office in Pollsmoor prison, Cape Town, to the few outsiders who have been allowed to discuss politics with him. These conversations reveal a distinction between Mandela's own views and the fiery rhetoric of most other leaders of the African National Congress.

The ANC's present position is that it will negotiate with the government only about the immediate transfer of power to the black majority, the alternative being full-scale civil war. The ANC president, Oliver Tambo, told MPs in London last October that "many will die, perhaps many thousands". Last September, according to Radio Lusaka, he ruled out a gradual transfer of power and predicted a bloodbath.

Mandela speaks far more gently. In January he told an American lawyer, Samuel Dash: "Unlike white people anywhere else in Africa, whites in South Africa belong here. This is their home; we want them to live here with us and share power with us." After majority rule, he added, he would not press for an uncontrolled movement of blacks into Johannesburg and other big cities. Integration in living areas would come after an expansion of job opportunities for blacks and "with dignity".

This idea of black-white power-sharing is hardly consistent with the ANC's policy of one man, one vote, in a unitary state brought about by "the flames of revolution". It seems closer to the plan proposed by the Progressive Federal Party (the main parliamentary opposition) and by Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Movement: a national convention of the races that will draw up a federal constitution for protection of the minorities. It was precisely this national convention, one recalls, that was the ANC's original demand in March 1961, just before the armed struggle began and Mandela was arrested.

The attitude towards Chief Buthelezi is another important distinction. The ANC portrays the Zulu leader as little better than a quisling. Last September its Freedom Radio in Addis Ababa called him the "bantustan puppet" who "served the objectives and interests of the Botswana regime". Mandela thinks differently. On May 5 he told Mrs Helen Suzman and her PFP colleague Tiaan van der Merwe that all groups across the political spectrum, including Buthelezi's Inkatha, should be



Nelson Mandela has declared that violence should be restricted to "hard targets". He regretted the ANC bomb that killed 13 people in Pretoria in 1983, calling it a tragic accident.



involved in negotiations for a new South Africa.

The two black leaders exchanged correspondence and seemed on good terms. In spite of his quarrel with the ANC, Chief Buthelezi has persistently called for Mandela's unconditional release; six months ago he interviewed directly with President Botha when there were worries about Mandela's health.

Mandela's views on the armed struggle bear equally careful examination. In early 1983 he said: "We are forced to continue, though within certain limits. We go for hard targets only — military installations and the symbols of apartheid. Civilians must not be touched. This is why I deeply regret what happened in Pretoria on May 23, 1983. A bomb went off and more than a dozen civilians were killed. Something must have gone wrong with the timing. It was a tragic accident... We aim for buildings and property. It may be that someone gets killed in the fight, in the heat of battle, but we do not believe in assassination. I would justify this only in the case of an informer who was a danger to our lives."

This is not what appears in the ANC's statements, or for that matter in Mrs Winnie Mandela's speeches. Last August 5, Freedom Radio announced that "the whole country must go up in flames". A month later it added: "We have got to take the battle right into (the whites') homes, into their kitchens and bedrooms. Police and soldiers must be killed even when they are in their homes." The most important nuance is over the truce which the Commonwealth "eminent persons" have been trying to negotiate these past months. The

idea was, I think, first suggested by Mandela himself. In January 1983 he said: "The armed struggle was forced on us by the government. And if they want us to give it up now, the ball is in their court. They must legalize us, treat us like a political party and negotiate with us... Of course, if there were to be talks along these lines, we in the ANC would declare a truce."

Recently he has repeated this proposal, both to the Commonwealth group and to Mrs Suzman, his only added condition being the release of all political prisoners.

Would the ANC accept such an offer? We do not know what has happened behind the scenes, but from what its leaders said in London last October the answer seems doubtful.

The ANC information director, Thabo Mbeki, said then that it was neither essential nor normal for a truce to be declared in a liberation struggle simply because negotiations had begun. This had not been the case in Vietnam or Rhodesia. If there were to be a truce, both sides would have to end their violence. And it was hard to see how the government could do so while the apartheid system remained in force.

So why does Mandela put forward these, in ANC terms, eccentric views? Obviously not through fear of reprisal or hope of favour from the government. I can only imagine that he has made a personal decision, bearing in mind his own unique status and predicament, to advance a realistic plan for the removal of apartheid, one that South Africans as a whole might conceivably accept, rather than the maximalist demands of the Lusaka exiles, which remain the ANC's official negotiating

position. Such a tactic he would not see as inconsistent with his position as the ANC's leader.

Pretoria does not make it easy for him to build up any such constructive role. His treatment today is good in normal prison terms, but quite inadequate for someone who, as the government makes plain, is detained for reasons of public policy rather than of punishment or rehabilitation. He is still kept virtually incommunicado and his letters are censored. I remember one that looked as if it had been attacked by moths, another as if it had been through a shredder. One letter that he wrote to me at the end of last year has still not arrived. Friends apply to send him books and other small presents that would teach him about life outside, but permission is usually refused.

These aspects of his treatment, it seems, are handled by the security authorities, not the minister responsible for prisons. And the former have no interest in preparing him for life, let alone leadership, in the outside world.

Instead they do their utmost to associate him with the worst violence in the townships. Last August he was tricked into receiving two journalists from the Rev Sun Myung Moon's *Washington Times*, who described him as "the South African terrorist and revolutionary".

In a BBC programme on May 6, the deputy information minister, Louis Nel, used Mandela's remarks about the armed struggle quoted above to argue that he remained committed to violence and should therefore stay in jail.

Mrs Suzman sees him as "our last hope". Tiaan van der Merwe, a "man who must inevitably play an enormous role in creating a new South Africa", Warren Hastings might have said that, when one considers what he has endured, one is amazed by Mandela's moderation. But the government, instead of embracing him as a chance for peace, keeps him isolated, so making ever more likely the bloodbath that his less statesmanlike friends foresee.

Lord Bethell is Conservative MEP for London North-west. He visited Mandela in prison in January last year.

Sabre rattlers who leave Charlie chortling

Mocoron, Honduras Most people would say that Mocoron was just about the end of the earth, but not Charlie Sang. There are strange things happening here which tell a seasoned old entrepreneur like Charlie that he could soon be on to something really big.

When he washed up in Mocoron in 1982 as a refugee from Nicaragua with only 300 lempiras in his pocket the place had not much going for it. A refugee-filled village of palm-thatched Indian huts on stilts in the middle of a pine-scattered tropical plain, a lonely battalion of the Honduran infantry and no roads to anywhere. The only way out, for those who could afford it, was an occasional flight to Tegucigalpa, or by dug-out canoe down the river to the coast.

Not much of a scene for one who had been top man in Puerto Cabezas, the sultry port a few days' walk away from Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. The son of a Chinese sailor and a Miskito Indian, Charlie had presided over what he calls the high lift of Puerto Cabezas, first as its

bank manager, then in the mahogany business and finally running his own private bus service.

His greatest moment was in 1961 when the town was the launching pad for the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; being its president, he gave the soldiers American officers the freedom of the Puerto Cabezas Social Club. But the life of a Yankee-loving capitalist was bound to change dramatically when the Marxist Sandinista regime came to power. Finding a store of dynamite in his house — kept, Charlie says, for fishing — they clapped him in jail for six months.

After his release his wife Eunice kept begging him to leave, but Charlie dug in. He finally made up his mind when the Sandinistas threatened him with another ten years in prison unless his son, Charlie, joined the army. But friends say the last straw was when they took away his four German shepherd dogs, saying they ate more meat in a week than many Puerto Cabezas did in a year.

Mocoron, Charlie soon realized, had more to it than met the eye. So he borrowed \$20,000 from a

friend, set up a hostelry and has never looked back.

Cold beer on his palm-thatched veranda was very welcome recently to the dozens of American army engineers and soldiers building the huge military airstrip pointing towards the Nicaraguan border 15 miles away. His tasty Chinese dishes make a pleasant change for the brut of tough American Green Berets training Honduran soldiers in the latest jungle warfare skills.

A couple of clean, simple rooms at \$3 a night are handy for visitors like American aid workers building roads through the area — for economic development, not strategic purposes, they quickly tell you — and watchtowers to guard against forest fires, which only by coincidence happen to look over the Nicaraguan border.

Every day Charlie has a squad of coffee-caked Miskito girls baking bread, cakes and biscuits in the wood-fired ovens for the American and Honduran soldiers. They will be even busier soon when thousands of troops arrive for the huge joint American-

Honduran manoeuvres codenamed Cabana 86.

His two green parrots amuse the United Nations refugee people and other international officials, and there are the hundreds of refugees from the Sandinistas, thirsty for Coca Cola, Sprite and beer. He also acts as local agent for the Honduran domestic airline.

More foreign money is being poured into the area than ever before, and a lot of it is rubbing off on Charlie. He now employs 11 people, has another German shepherd dog and his house on stilts, with his green and white painted banisters, is by far the smartest in Mocoron. He has already paid back more than half his loan.

"I live better now than I ever did before," he said, "I never want to move again. This is a most cosmopolitan place."

The Nicaraguans are convinced the Americans are preparing to invade. The Americans swear they are simply helping the Hondurans to withstand aggression. If the balloon does go up, Mocoron will be a hotspot, but Charlie will not complain.

Patricia Clough

Anne Sofer

Keep quiet at the top there

As he settles into his new job as Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker should have the courage and magnanimity to stay his hand. He has a breezy way of making everyone feel comfortable. He should use it for all its worth for the next few months and not do much else, at least in public.

It will of course be very difficult. The press will be badgering him to make major policy statements; Conservative backbenchers will be pressing their nostrums on him; the advocates of Crown schools and educational credit schemes (the reclassified vouchers) will be trying to get their papers on to Cabinet agendas. And — most powerful of all — Mrs Thatcher will demand something punchy to put in the election manifesto.

We Want An Initiative, they will all cry. And that is what Baker must resist. Another initiative would assuredly be education's coup de grace. The secondary schools are already drowning in an alphabet soup of initiatives: GCSE, TVEI, CPVE, A/S, TRIST, to name a few.

And these are only what they have coming at them from central government. There are plenty of local authority initiatives as well; and with several councils having changed hands, the arrival of keen new education committee chairmen will mean even more.

But surely Baker must do something about the terrible mess education is in, somebody will say. Certainly he has to see that people stop regarding education as being in a mess. Three things have to happen: more resources will have to be found from the Treasury, the teachers' pay dispute will have to be settled on terms that ordinary teachers are relatively happy with, and parents must again see schools as busy, happy, effective places.

The first of these is probably happening under electoral pressure in any case, and Baker will presumably be busying himself behind the scenes to make sure it does. There has already been some "give" on higher education.

The second is in the hands of Acs, the co-ordination service, but the chances of the talks reaching a consensus will be very much brighter if Baker is seen emerging from Cabinet meetings looking like the cat that has been given the cream: an expression which fortunately suits his physiognomy.

The third cannot happen at all without the second. All of this is quiet, low-profile work: no big policy speeches, no pyrotechnics. If the dispute is settled and the schools return to normal, the teachers will have plenty to be getting on with. All those acronyms mean new courses, even radically different teaching methods. Many teachers will desperately want to be left alone to get on with it; there is a huge peot-up desire to plan and collaborate and create. Baker will be well advised to play down the government's role in these initiatives. To push in

and take the credit for what is going well will raise hackles. Teachers' morale will rise if teachers get the credit.

Indeed it would be very clever of Baker to orchestrate a campaign publicizing teaching successes: television programmes about schools that have improved their image, a breakthrough in the teaching of maths, a national school choir contest... People are getting bored with educational doom and gloom.

None of this should imply that there is nothing wrong with the education system that money cannot put right. That has never been true. But the mistake the Conservatives have made is to throw all the blame on the teachers and cast themselves in the role of scourge and saviour.

Teachers themselves know perfectly well there are serious failings in the system. Whenever they are polled they are astonishingly frank about their own and their colleagues' performance. But they are extraordinarily sensitive about being pilloried as a group, and no Education Secretary will be allowed to get away with it.

Indeed I doubt whether Baker will be allowed to get away with anything at all. That faction within the Labour Party and the teachers' unions that wants to keep educational discontent simmering until the next election will be eager to pounce on any new idea and discredit it.

None of this is of course the advice I would offer to an incoming Education Secretary of a different political persuasion. Coming in on a new electoral platform, with promises of expansion, exciting new vistas — that is an entirely different proposition.

I am assuming that Baker will not be able to perform a complete transformation of Conservative policy. He is not magician enough, one assumes, to reawaken Mrs Thatcher's enthusiasm for oratory education, or persuade the Cabinet to launch a major expansion of higher education.

So the best he can hope for is not very much. It is that in one or two years' time, when the election arrives, the political journalists, propping up a bar in Westminster, will say to each other, "Funny how we all thought education was going to be the big issue this time; somehow it seems to have taken a back seat. Mind you, Baker hasn't made much of a mark..."

That is why I used the word "magnanimity" at the beginning of this article. The strategy I have outlined is the one that I believe will do the Conservative Party the least electoral damage: it is the one that, given the political constraints, would certainly be best for the education service. But I am not sure it does much for Baker himself. And since he is an able and ambitious politician, tipped for the highest office, he may have different ideas.

The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

moreover... Miles Kington

I have pulled the first cracker

Earlier this month I was involved in an amazingly innovative social experiment. I was a guest at the annual dinner of an organization called Books For Students, and although getting young people to read books is a daring social experiment in itself, the really adventurous part of the evening lay in the fact that this, on May 8, was its Christmas dinner.

It had come about quite by accident. Books For Students had always had a combined sales conference and party at the end of the year, so naturally enough it had been a Christmas party with crackers and plum duff. Recently the organization was taken over by W.H. Smith, whose year ends in late spring. So Books For Students had to move its annual party.

With that innate conservatism which caused the British Empire to dress for dinner no matter how tropical the circumstances, Books For Students decided that its party could still be Christmasy. So on May 8, I found myself putting on a paper hat, pulling crackers, exchanging terrible riddles and throwing streamers at strangers. Everyone had a whale of a time. I only wish I had been able to stay for the party.

One reason that Christmas seemed better in early May is that it was totally free of all the usual unpleasant factors — buying presents, forgetting to buy a tree, being nice to relations, and so on. There were no children being sick with greed, or grown-ups grey with effort. It was just an undiluted Christmas dinner on a warm spring evening, and an example of one of the most creative and most ignored social laws: if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing out of season.

The first man I ever came across with fruitful examples of this law was John Betjeman, who swore that the familiar pattern of people who lived in London during the weekends was quite idiotic. The countryside was overcrowded on Saturdays and Sundays, he especially the City, was empty; far better to stay in the country for the week and come up to London at the weekends, which is exactly what he did. He also once spent a summer in Leeds while everyone there was away in Majorca, and

said it was about the best summer holiday he had ever had.

Perhaps there's another social law involved here, allied but different: Always make sure the rush hour is going in the opposite direction.

Using these two laws in tandem, it should be possible to give a new flavour to our lives. For instance, it is always better to go on holiday out of season, but that is only the half of it. It is also better to go on holiday to places which are considered risky or out of fashion.

If I were an American, now is the time I would come to Europe. As a Briton, I should be visiting Northern Ireland, the Basque part of Spain, India, or Nicaragua. Mark you, there was a feature in the *International Herald Tribune* on skiing holidays in Iran, which I think may be going a little far, but I applaud the spirit behind it.

Again, there is a tendency when choosing a holiday to avoid those spots which have been developed or spoiled, and to go for the undeveloped, undiscovered areas. Even better, why not go for the places which used to be developed and have now been forgotten? The towns of the great spa age. The seaside places like Deauville, Biarritz, and Le Touquet? The parts of the Scottish Highlands colonized by Queen Victoria?

The way you apply these laws depends very much on the state of your own life, but here are a few further hints:

- If you must celebrate New Year, make sure it is someone else's, the Chinese, preferably.
- To enjoy a big railway station or air terminal, go there when you're not travelling anywhere. I know a man who enjoys whole evenings at the National Theatre, and has never seen a single play there.
- Eat turkey any time except Christmas and have fireworks any time except November.
- Get most of your work done at lunchtime.
- Do your evening drinking at strange theatres, outside the intervals, while everyone else is in the auditorium.
- Wait till the book you want comes out in paperback, then buy the secondhand hardback, which is by now cheaper.
- Get yourself invited to the Books For Students Christmas dinner; better still, bold your own.

10p/15p

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 27: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance...

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 27: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, visited the Western District of the Duchy today...

Birthdays today
Sir Owen Aisher, 86; Mr Albert Booth, 58; Miss Faith Brown, 39; Sir Edward du Cann, MP, 62...

Abbots Bromley
A Celebratory Luncheon will be held at Abbots Bromley (School of St Mary and St Anne) on Saturday, September 6, 1986...

Sir Peter Pears
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Peter Pears will be held in Westminster Abbey...

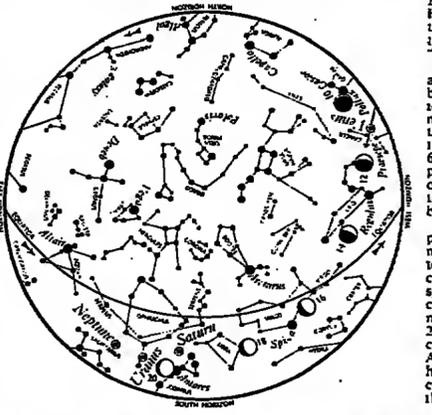
Appointments
Latest appointments include: The following to be members of the group which will advise Mr Norman...

University news
Mr Roy Goodman, B.Mus., has been appointed director of music at the university from October 1 in succession to Mr Harry Newstone...

The night sky in June

By Our Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury will reach greatest elongation (25 deg) as an evening star on the 25th, when it will set an hour and a half after the Sun...



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23.00 pm at the beginning, 23.00 pm in the middle, and 23.00 pm at the end of the month...

15th, and the end of the arrow on the 30th. By the 15th rotation will have tilted the map for 22h and the planets will have set by 23h.

Halley's Comet has come and gone to the general public in the latitude of the United Kingdom it was a non-event, but as readers will have gathered from press and television its appearance yielded scientific information of great value...

Latest wills
The Rev Harry Clement Williams, of Canterbury, Kent, the oldest priest in the Church of England, who died aged 106, left an estate valued at £48,401 net.

OBITUARY LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE

Lifelong devotion to the Turf

A love of flying and a love of horses, but especially horses, were among the dominating interests in the life of Lord Willoughby de Broke, MC, AFC, who died on May 25, at the age of 90.



Lord Willoughby's love of horses never faded during his life. As an owner, breeder and local steward he became a much respected figure on the racecourse...

John Henry Mayo Verney was born on May 21, 1896, and succeeded his father, the 19th baron, in 1923. His lifelong affection for horses began with his first ride at the age of 14 on a full size hunter with the Warwickshire Hounds...

With racing expanding after its restricted wartime activities, Lord Willoughby played a leading role in trying to make the sport more attractive both to owners and punters.

He had the delicate task from 1948-53 of presiding over Tattersall's Committee, which deals with betting disputes. Other influential posts included chairmanships of the Wolverhampton Racecourse Company (1947-71)...

There then came the invitation to become Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Bombay. Without hesitation, he accepted. A second invitation also arrived: would he allow his name to go forward as the Conservative candidate for Warwick and Leamington?

He settled finally in London and began to write his first series of books on Germany which were to culminate in his moving post-war autobiography 'Farwell to Germany'...

He was arrested and spent the war in an internment camp on the Isle of Man. It was during his enforced stay that he began to acquire his excellent command of English.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM
£4 a line + 15% VAT (minimum 3 lines)
Announcements, authenticated by this name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent via...

SHALES On May 23rd at Queen Anne's Chapel, London, the Rev. Canon John Thorneley and Mrs. Thorneley...

BLACKBURN On 22nd May, in the Home Valley Memorial Hospital at a long illness, Mrs. Annie...

MOORE On 23rd May, 1986, tragically at the age of 28 years, Frederick William, son of Mrs. M. Moore...

SMITH On 25th May 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Jane Smith, nee Drayton...

SMITH On 25th May 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Jane Smith, nee Drayton...

SMITH On 25th May 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Jane Smith, nee Drayton...

SMITH On 25th May 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Jane Smith, nee Drayton...

MARRIAGES
MILTON-HEWLETT-CARPENTER On May 24th, at St. Peter's Church, Trengwainton, Cornwall...

DEATHS
ABBOTT On Saturday, 24th May 1986 peacefully at a Salcombe Nursing Home...

ABBOTT On Saturday, 24th May 1986 peacefully at a Salcombe Nursing Home...

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DEATHS
ANY On May 22nd, 1986 at St. Luke's Hospital, Gillingham, Kent...

DEATHS
BEACH On May 23rd, 1986 peacefully at his home in North Devon...

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Advertisement for 'The Times' newspaper, including contact information and subscription details.

THE ARTS

Television

Having had a foretaste of David Cohen's documentary 'Firepoint '86: Victims' (Central) on Monday night's Open The Box, the viewer may have been more than usually alert to the possibility of artificial manipulation in these interviews with the victims of crime. How many takes were needed to elicit tears from the widow of a ricket collector wantonly killed by a metal spike through the head? Given the harrowing circumstances of the case, the most likely answer would be "one".

Perhaps the most useful function of programmes such as Open The Box is to remind us that the most intimate moments between subject and interviewer take place in the presence of five or six silent and unseen technicians. In agreeing to ignore this submerged bulk of the television iceberg the interviewee colludes in the artifice of programme making: with "personalities" it could not be otherwise with "real people" such as the unremarkable victims seen here and in every "fly on the wall" documentary, interviewees wily-silly act themselves for the camera.

Martin Cropper



An androgynous Cleopatra (Vanessa Redgrave) plays games with a hypnotized Antony (Timothy Dalton)

Theatre

Grandeur in a mocking grimace

Antony and Cleopatra Haymarket

One thing is clear from the first of Theatr Clwyd's two Haymarket productions: the directors (Toby Robertson and Christopher Selbie) are aiming to do more than put a frame around Vanessa Redgrave.

The surrounding company presents an interesting mix of old National Theatre stalwarts, robust troopers of the kind who used to sustain Mr Robertson's Prospect Shows, and wild outsiders to the classical stage. Where else would you find Sylvester McCoy playing a pipsqueak Pompey, and winding up drunk in Antony's arms at the end of the galley scene? It may sound

stupid but it makes Shakespeare's point that this Pompey is a clown compared with his father. More seriously, there is a gravely ineffectual Lepidus from Gerald James, along the lines of a town clerk catapulted into central government; and there is a fiery, sardonic Enobarbus from Robert O'Mahoney, who also benefits from some of the best directing in the show.

Means have been found to sharpen most of his asides into partnership exchanges, and to project his line of thought when he is not speaking. For instance, when Antony shuts him up during the first Roman conference, he responds with mute horror to the political marriage plan; and when he embarks on his description of Cleopatra, it is not an aria but an angry rebuke to the two

Roman idiots who proposed the idea of marrying Antony to Octavia in the first place. There are other fresh and illuminating points; but they fail to coalesce into a coherent view of the play, much less to overcome its notorious staging problems. Simon Higlett's set consists of a gutted Roman mansion with an upper window ledge put to various inventive uses before it comes into its own as the monument. What it fails to do is to supply the vital division between the two worlds of Rome and Egypt.

There are some powerful images - from the first sight of Cleopatra enticing her jack-in-the-box lover out of a treasure chest, to a spectacle of his bleeding body being winched aloft by a single arm. Unfortunately these are isolated images, moments of

visual excitement that come and go in the midst of routine semi-circular groupings and some of the most deliberately attenuated delivery I can recall (the production lasts upwards of 3 1/2 hours). Nor has Mr Robertson found any means of dealing with the battle scenes: all we get is smoke, red light and yet another figure gloomily wandering out of the murk to describe the latest disaster.

When she last played Cleopatra (1973) Miss Redgrave presented a bullying dilettante playing at soldiers in a white trowsersuit. This time she comes on with cropped hair in a long white gown; an androgynously anonymous figure emphasizing all the marks of age. Her opening scenes are at once hilarious and alarming: baring her teeth in a mocking

grimace as she goes into games of rough and tumble and outrageous mimicry with Antony before being spanked and carried off piggy back. What the opening establishes is that Timothy Dalton is in thrall to a creature who will certainly bring about his downfall; and that nothing exists for Cleopatra beyond the desires of the moment.

At every chance she gets, Redgrave pushes home her vanity, arrogance, and duplicity. The reward of this approach is that, against all the odds, she achieves tragic grandeur on her own terms; facing death as yet another game, but one worth her time.

Irving Wardle

Previews of Theatr Clwyd's production of The Taming of the Shrew from June 4.

Interview

Bernard Mac Laverly (right) has written the script of Lamb, a film based on his first novel, which opens in London next week. He talks to Paul Nathanson



In Cal, Bernard Mac Laverly's much-acclaimed novel, a sense of redemption tempered the ultimate pathos. But in Lamb, the film which he has written based on his first novel and which opens in London next week, there is no such relief. Mac Laverly quietly agrees that it is a story of failure and despair.

Mac Laverly himself, pulling over his shoulder, revealing white, boyish arms, is hardly melancholic. Renowned for his impish humour, he has as much trouble suppressing his Belfast bonhomie as keeping his battered pipe alight. Lamb tells of a priest, Michael Lamb, who runs away with a boy of twelve from the burling where he teaches. The boy, Owen, grabs physical freedom, while Lamb escapes his spiritual father, Father Benedict, a sadistic reactionary, who boasts "We teach them a little God and a lot of fear", and "Freedom is an affliction".

Lamb is partly a metaphor for the situation in Northern Ireland", says Mac Laverly. "The strength of feeling that comes out of Lamb is in some way the strength of feeling I've had about Northern Ireland, the parallel being how misdirected love results in tragedy.

"Normally writing is the most awful drudge", Mac Laverly explains, "but here one idea led to another and I wrote it very, very quickly in about three months. Mac Laverly, who once described film writing as reducing paragraphs of prose into grunts, pared the prose so savagely that the story's very structure almost collapsed, and director Colin Gregg had to steer him back to the source material and re-introduce the book into the film.

There was also a hiccup over the title, which producer Neil Zeiger wanted to change. Mac Laverly was equally adamant it should stay and resorted to his spiky, mischievous humour to preserve it, suggesting inane alternatives like The Disillusioned Celibate.

Mac Laverly, 43, lean and less jowly than photos suggest, holds the sanctity of his prose in rather less awe and went ahead with the screenplay for three reasons. It was, he says, interesting, lucrative and also a way of protecting the book. Bernard Mac Laverly has a reputation for being philosophical and unfussed while working on films; a convivial, witty man, he has a quiet confidence, oiled by an easy eloquence and frequent laughter - both at himself and the world around him. It is as

though a man whose stories are often so bleak with the recurring themes of conflict and manour, cannot bear to live with his literary self.

"In writing, yes, I tend to be pessimistic, but in myself I think I'm a fair optimist", he observes. "I don't know why that should be, except that coming from Northern Ireland, if you're going to reflect in any way the situation there, you can't write something which would end with head-clinging jollity."

Son of a commercial artist, Mac Laverly caused an immediate stir on entering the world of films at the age of five. Just William was playing in Belfast and the child Bernard was so terrified that he was led from the auditorium in a state of screaming hysteria.

His literary career proved less melodramatic and he did not start writing until he was 19. At the time he was a lab technician in the Anatomy Department at Queen's University, Belfast, having been pushed into science at school. Inspired by D. H. Lawrence and Kafka, he spent 10 years "writing badly". Still today he wrestles with writing. "I present he is going through a bad patch", agonizing over the very nature of his prose. More than that he will not say: "I don't want to engage in a discussion of it. If I could, I would know what was wrong."

After his apprenticeship he published his first book of short stories, Secrets, in 1977 and his first novel, Lamb, in 1980, which won critical acclaim as well as a Scottish Arts Council Book Award. Meanwhile, he had abandoned science to do an English degree and become a teacher, taking up his first post in Edinburgh before moving to the Isle of Ilay. Now with his wife Madeleine - his most influential critic - and four children he lives in Glasgow.

A present Mac Laverly, who sees himself primarily as writer of fiction, is completing a third book of short stories and also working on a third film script, called Perigot. For the first time the script will not be based on one of his books but on a true story about an Italian in Paris in 1911. "It's a kind of smile", he says, "a comedy which is very different to anything I've ever written before. Perhaps it's partly an attempt to shake off the darkness in my work. And people have been telling me not to understate comedy. I made a mental Somerset to transfer an Italian in Paris to an Irishman in Britain. If you switch off your tape recorder, I'll tell you what it's all about."

Concert

CBSO/Rattle Wells Cathedral

Even by the extraordinary standards of Simon Rattle's recent achievements, this was something special, a performance of Messiaen's Turanghala Symphony within the visually and acoustically welcoming ambience of a great cathedral, and with the composer there to be one hopes, thunderstruck with the rest of us.

It is hard to imagine how the piece could be better done. Rattle has the energy and the trust in the score (as well as, no less important, the trust of his players) to make possible a confident, positive sounding of its extremes of tempo. The slow music was not sluggish but very carefully and exactly decelerated to suggest suspended time, and the wild D flat dance of cosmic joy was even a little faster than marked, yet managed by the large orchestra with quite astonishing precision.

In such feats Mr Rattle and his Birmingham orchestra were no doubt building on

their experience together, in their perfectly synchronized changes of speed and volume. Mr Rattle is a bit freer with his rallentandos than the score requires, but the effect is to assure the impression of a giant machine reaching with effort the top of a hill in order to freewheel exuberantly down the other side.

Much of the special quality of this performance came from that sense of the music generating its own momentum, and from the fantastic brilliance of colour. The blendings within this orchestra, of woodwind and violins, trumpets and percussion, were marvellously clear and true, and the liveliness and variety of tone were enhanced by the soloists, Paul Crossley and Tristan Murali. With each layer so secure, even the most crowded textures lay open to view.

Luminous polyphony was a feature, too, of the Tristram music played as an effectively contrasting approach to the same theme, and done with a long breath that Mr Rattle must some day extend into the rest of the opera.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Volatility of contrasts

La forza del destino Bavarian State Opera, Munich

The sense of destiny in La forza del destino is so clearly fashioned by the characters involved that Verdi's St Petersburg opera might just as well have been called "War and Peace"; everyone is either running after the one or crying for the other, and the result is a sad, sprawling epic of human degradation and destruction, sanctified by the tragic obliquity of Verdi's music. It is this almost contradictory quality of heroic pessimism that is highlighted in the new Munich production, which is staged by Götz Friedrich and conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli.

Like the work itself, the production is a patchy success, its value lying more in the way it inspires admiration for the compass of Verdi's imagination than in its achievement of conventional operatic goals. Friedrich was a good choice for this opera. He has a flair for both the war scenes and the arch humanity of the friar Melitone that stops just short of caricature; and he brings to the squalor and pessimism a characteristically strong dose of intellectual rigour.

The chief interest in Friedrich's concept is the way he tightens the opera's structure by using a single set. There is not even time for applause between acts or scenes, and the evening sweeps past with exceptional coherence. The opera is played in full in the revised Milan version of 1869, the only change being the placing of the encampment scene



Kurt Moll as the Father Superior, Julia Varady as Leonora

before rather than after the first Carlo-Alvaro fight, thereby keeping Melitone's sermon well apart from his hectoring of the beggars at the start of Act IV. At the end, Alvaro expires next to Leonora, though Friedrich leaves us to decide whether this is Liebestod or sheer world-weariness.

The action takes place in a giant brick-and-concrete ruin, shaped like a transept, selectively lit and sparsely decorated for each scene. This handmade theatre of operations, designed by Hans Schaver-

nach, serves equally well as courtyard, cathedral or cavern, and Lore Haas's costumes evoke the grey anonymity of the Napoleonic mob. Some of the work's stature derives from the very volatility of its contrasts, and these were in part smothered. On this occasion, it seemed a price worth paying.

Sinopoli emerged with great credit. Any reservations about his exhibition of primary colours in the overture were undermined by his ability to inspire the orchestra to play with such virtuosic bloom and

polish. Thereafter he was the model of discretion, tempering nervous energy with respect for his singers' strengths and limitations.

The taut expressiveness of his reading was at one with the production. The weakest point in a strong cast was the Alvaro of Veriano Luchetti, whose voice has a pleasant open timbre but lacks weight - his top is suspect and his phrasing correspondingly short. Nor was his acting up to the standard of his non-Italian colleagues; the role could really do with a Carreras. Bruno Pola impressed as Melitone. Wolfgang Brendel's Carlo had a subdued evening - the voice is just about heavy enough, but sounds stubbornly one-dimensional. Marjana Lipovsek was a swashbuckling, peg-legged Preziosilla, a victim as much as a product of war, using a rifle for physical support and her other crutch to make a living.

Kurt Moll, the personification of sobriety and saintliness, was an outstanding Father Superior, his Act II duet with Julia Varady's Leonora undoubtedly the watershed of the performance. Miss Varady sang the same role in Munich's previous Forza production in 1974. She looks and sounds as young as ever and, if the cropped hair and grey uniform of Act II gave her more the appearance of the revolutionary than the penitent, she justified all in her vocal radiance, stamina and tender feminine fragility. She is a complete child of the opera stage, who communicates more about drama in music in a single phrase than many singers do in a career.

Andrew Clark

London débuts

Maybe the Prince of Wales's homily on the British-Japanese culture gap had some effect on a respectably full Queen Elizabeth Hall to hear Kinoko Shirane, who now lives in London.

Mistress of the koto, the long, zither-like instrument with 13 individually fretted strings, she spanned three centuries of consistently beguiling music. She performed alone and with Yoshikazu Iwamoto on the shakuhachi, the bamboo flute.

She was joined by Nohuko Imai, distinguished viola player in the Western tradition, for a duo, Of Moonlight, composed by Ryohet Hirose for the occasion, sharing equal interest between the players in

a texture of Webernisch counterpoint. Another premiere of more traditional cast was given in Katutoshi Nagasawa's Benihana no Kyoku, which established the koto as my best-liked instrument of the year, mild in its tone and with oo amplification anywhere around.

Sharon Cooper, an English mezzo whose career has begun mainly in France, sang as if she had two voices which had not quite met each other, but with thrilling operatic potential.

The divided vocal character ideally suited the first of Mahler's 11 waltzer songs, in a full-toned and beautifully-phrased account of them as a whole.

Jeffrey Cohen's attentive piano partnering was also subtle of effect to a group of Hugo Wolf songs, some of which signalled likeable humour on the singer's part, and Britten's Auden setting. On this Island, were sung with poetic candour.

Some further attention to consonants would have helped the verbal sense in English and Italian, not least in personifying the emotions of Haydn's Arianna a Nazos.

As a Baroque violin specialist, the American Richard Laby was refreshingly free of mannerism in a programme of unaccompanied Bach. His silver-toned Amati violin, a beautiful instrument of 1623 acquired the more fully to explore the six Sonatas and

Panias, sounded crisply responsive to his touch, and even a snapped string near the end of the C major Sonata could not faze his concentration.

Most rewarding was his avoidance of any tendency to preach at us on the musical texts, as he were, and instead to play with a natural inflexion in phrasing, a springy sense of rhythm and clarity even in spread chords.

The D minor Partita with its great Chaconne found him in magisterial control, and nothing sounded forced in encompassing the broadest range with sustained lines and strongly implied tonal roots.

Noël Goodwin

An auction where you can even afford the time.

If the prices don't put some auctions out of your reach, the viewing and sale dates certainly will. Sotheby's Conduit Street Sales are devised to fit in with your lifestyle. So there are evening and Sunday viewings, with the sale on the following Monday evening.

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Monday 2nd June 11.00 am-2.00 pm

NEXT SALE
Monday 2nd June 3.30 pm-9.00 pm

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Explanation of budget 'rating' for universities

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Each of the 53 universities and institutes in Britain were sent a detailed letter last night by the University Grants Committee explaining how their budgets had been fixed for the next academic year and how their research had been rated.

Every university department in the country should know this morning whether it is assessed as average, above average, or whether it is given a star for excellence.

Those departments assessed as below average will get no rating at all. The new review is the first of its kind undertaken by the committee, and should decide whether departments are likely to survive and prosper, or face the axe. The committee has this year allocated 15 per cent of the total money available to universities on the basis of the quality of their research.

Once the letters have been made public, it should be possible for students and parents to have a rough guide to the quality of research for each university department.

Research basis for assessment

The assessment also takes into account the amount of money from outside the university system that institutions receive for research, but gives no indication of the quality of teaching.

The letters follow last week's details of budget allocations by the committee which imposed cash cuts of up to 0.5 per cent on 18 institutions. The committee was faced with a 2 per cent cut in real terms in the amount of money it was given by the Government and spread that by allocating money on the basis of student numbers and the quality of research.

Howls of anguish went up from universities around the country because even those with cash increases said that the allocations would mean cuts in real terms, Cambridge,

which received an increase of 0.7 per cent, said this would mean a decrease of 3.5 to 4 per cent in real terms, or between £1 m and £2 m.

The average increase in grant was 1 per cent. Salford University, cut heavily in the university cuts of 1981, receives an increase this time of 1.1 per cent, but it says this figure means a drop in real terms of 4 per cent.

Even Warwick, famous for its links with industry and the amount of money it attracts from outside sources for research, said that its increase of 4 per cent, the highest of any university, would mean it would have to continue to economize.

College facing deficit in '87

The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, one of four Welsh institutions to be cut, said that it was likely to face a deficit next year of £500,000.

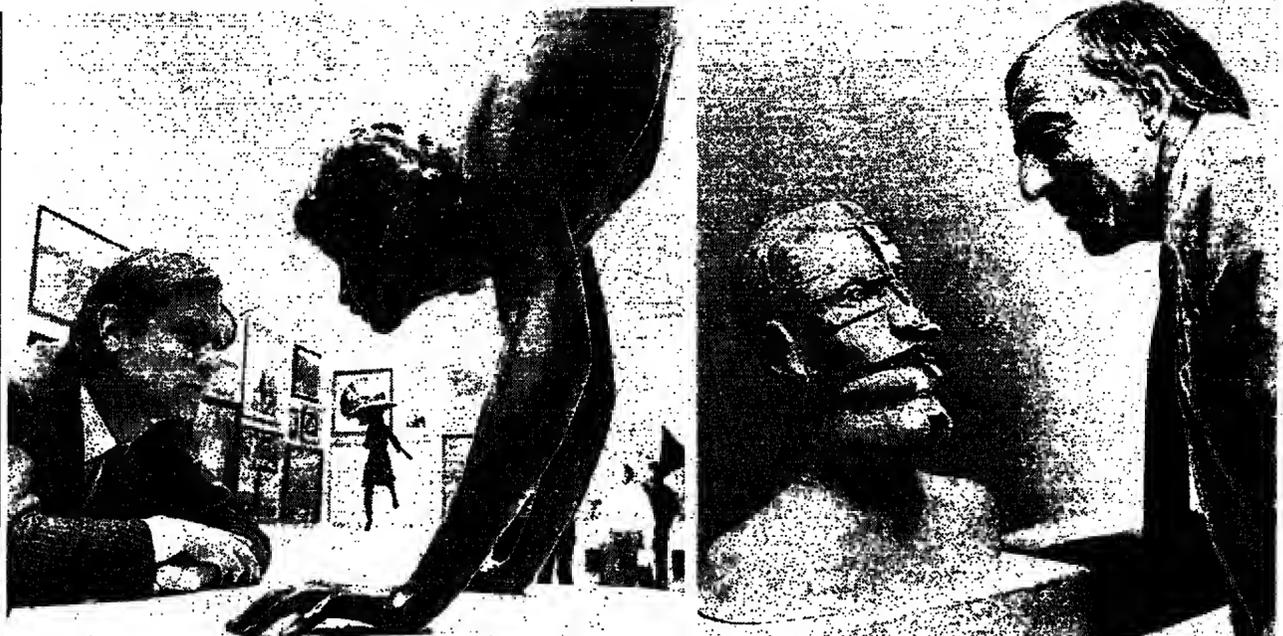
"We were cut to the bone in 1981," Dr Gareth Owen, the college principal, said.

"We were promised level funding and despite increasing our funding from external sources, improving our research income and developing our industrial links, we have been cut once again by more than 5 per cent."

Oxford University was extremely angry that it received no increase in its budget, which meant that it received less than average. "How this astonishing result was arrived at we cannot yet tell," Sir Patrick Neill, the vice-chancellor and warden of All Souls, said.

First signs last night showed that some institutions had done very well out of the committee's review of research quality. Imperial College, London, Britain's premier research establishment, received stars in eight subjects, denoting excellence in those departments.

Leading article, page 17



Mr Jeffrey Archer with Harpley bronze, "Handstand" (left) and Mr Roger de Grey, academy president, examining "Jack Wayne", by Paolozzi. (Photographs: Peter Triestner)

Academy's masterpieces of famous and unknown art

By Alan Hamilton

Works of art by the famous and the unknown, priced at between £20 and £34,000, were unveiled at Burlington House, Piccadilly, yesterday at the preview of the Royal Academy's 218th summer exhibition.

Entries for this most sought-after of showings were, at 12,544, well down on last year's entry of over 15,000, mainly as a result of the academy's new policy of charging artists £7.50 per submission in an effort to substitute quality for quantity.

The fifteen-man hanging committee chose 1,593 works for display, compared with more than 1,700 last year. Mr John Ward, chairman of the hanging committee, said at the preview yesterday: "This year's exhibition is as good as any I can ever remember. The place is full of masterpieces,

often by quite unknown people." The academy hopes that last year's attendance figure of 143,706, the highest since 1959, will be exceeded this year. The exhibition, which opens to the public on Saturday, continues until mid-August.

One of Britain's foremost contemporary painters, David Hockney, is exhibiting for the first time, with three limited-edition lithographs priced at between £4,000 and £12,075. But the highest-priced work is a large canvas showing an unusual treatment of the Crucifixion by Allen Jones, "Night Moves, 1984", showing a mermaid on the cross.

An early bargain hunter was Mr Jeffrey Archer, the novelist and Conservative Party publicist, who prowled the galleries in search of investments. Several years ago he bought a sculpture by Sydney Harpley for £120. Mr Harpley has an exhibit this year priced at £10,000.

Letters, page 17

Party chief beaten by Dutch poll

The Hague (Reuters) - The Dutch Liberal Party will choose a new leader after the completion of negotiations for the renewing of its alliance with the Christian Democrats of Mr Ruud Lubbers, the Prime Minister.

The junior partner in the ruling centre-right coalition decided to replace Mr Ed Nijpels after losing a quarter of its parliamentary seats in last week's general election.

Mr Jan Kamminga, the chairman of the Liberal Party, said Mr Nijpels would make way for a new parliamentary chief.

Mr Nijpels, aged 36, has led the right-wing party since 1982 when he steered it to strong electoral gains. But after last week's election, in which the Liberals lost nine seats to finish with 27, he immediately came under fire.

A new generation of pragmatists

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Young Americans today are markedly more conservative and less idealistic than early generations, are optimistic, eager for material success, increasingly indifferent to social service and community actions and tend to admire President Reagan.

This picture emerges from various surveys of young people's attitudes, including one published in *The Washington Post* yesterday.

The polls, which covered young adults of various races, classes and incomes, revealed a generation that scorned the ironic, uncertain, contemplative and idealistic while admiring the quick, active, clear-cut and pragmatic.

It preferred symbol to words, films to books, television to newspapers and the present to the past or future. In marked contrast to the 1960s, young Americans today are remarkably unalienated.

A recent annual survey of college freshmen found that whereas in 1967 83 per cent of students listed "developing a meaningful philosophy of life" as an essential or very important goal, only 43 per cent said that now. In 1967 43 per cent listed "being well off financially" as essential; that has now risen to 71 per cent.

The latest *Washington Post* polls, however, showed that while 18/25-year-olds were markedly more optimistic, especially on the status of blacks and their own financial situation - they shared liberal attitudes of earlier generations on social issues.

Some 66 per cent approved of unmarried men and women living together as against 19 per cent disapproving.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales visits the Suffolk Agricultural Association's County Show, County Showground, Ipswich, 11.

Princess Margaret opens the new 'High-Tech' building of Wilson, Hughes and Partners, Ruislip, 12.15.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Air Chief Commandant, Women's Royal Force, visits the WRAF Hostel, 39 Pembridge Gardens, W2, 3.30.

The Duke of Gloucester attends a concert given by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 7.20.

Princess Alexandra opens the

new premises of Buckingham

Coatings, Tingewick Rd, Buckingham, 2.30.

New exhibitions

Watercolours and graphics by Nick Orsborn: Foyer (ends June 13); Lee Miller: a retrospective; Gallery (ends June 18); Gardner Arts Centre, Sussex University, Stanmer Park, Brighton; Mon to Sat 10 to 6.

Paintings by Tony Bartl: Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30. Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends June 8).

New paintings by Philip Hicks: Bohun Gallery, Station Rd, Healey-on-Thames; Mon to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5.30, closed Wed (ends June 5).

Overland: Roger Ackling, Elceen Lawrence, David Nash, Leon Tarasewicz: Ikon Gallery, 38-72 John Bright St, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (ends June 14).

Paintings by Lancelotti Ribeiro: A Retrospective 1960-1986: Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 4).

Works of the Royal Photographic Society: Brympton d'Everey, Yeovil; Sat to Wed 2 to 6 (ends June 4).

Young Cocker Sculpture and related works 1976-86: Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends May 31).

Works by Eric James Mellon, Joyce Macintyre, Willy Tarr and Stephen Radcliffe: Abbott Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Kendal; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 22).

Paintings by Tony Bartl: Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30. Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends June 8).

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Books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week

Dictionary of Changes in Meaning, by Adrian Room (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £14.95)

Gilbert White, by Richard Mabey (Century Hutchinson, £14.95)

P.E.N. New Poetry 1, edited by Robert Nye (Quartet, £12.95)

Survey of London, vol. XLII, Southern Kensington to Earl's Court (Atkins, £12.95)

Pressures and Regrets, by Marcel Proust, translated by Louise Varèse (Penguin, £11.95)

The Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry, edited by Paul Muldoon (Faber, £10.95, paperback £5.95)

The Letters of John Colman, 1951-1980, forewords by William Anderson and François Duchana (John Murray, £13.50)

The Origin of Writing, by Roy Harris (Duckworth, £12.95)

John Galsworthy, 1867-1933, edited by Lolla Vonnovitz (Secker & Warburg, £15)

Women in Roman Law and Society, by Jane F. Gardner (Croom Helm, £22.50)

Anniversaries

Births William Pitt the Younger, prime minister, 1751-1801, 1804-06. Hayes, Kent, 1759; Thomas Moore, poet and musician, Dublin, 1779.

Deaths Luigi Boccherini, Madrid, 1805; John Russell, 1st Earl of Bedford, 1803-83; Richard Brinsley Sheridan, 1751-1816; John Lubbock, 1st Baron Avebury, 1839-1913; Sir George Grove, engineer and first director of the Royal College of Music, London, 1900; Sir John Lubbock, 1st Baron Avebury, banker and author, Kingsway, London, 1913; Alfred Adler, psychiatrist, Aberdeen, 1937.

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Roads

The Midlands: M1: Contrailow between junctions 15 and 16 (Northampton), A38: Roadworks along Burton on Trent bypass: some delays. A34: Roadworks at Tredington and Wolford, 5 of Stratford.

Wales and West: M5: Contrailow between junctions 8 and 9 (M50/Tewkesbury), A4023: Contrailow work along Newfoundland St, Bristol, A36: Temporary traffic lights at Bradford Abbas between Yeovil and Shaftesbury.

The North: A1 (M): Contrailow SW of Darlington at Barton interchange. M6: Major widening scheme at Barton interchange. Manchester: avoid. M6: Rebuilding work between junctions 32 and 33 (Preston/Bacup).

Scotland: A84: Roadworks at Kirkton N of Doune and at Edenkyle: temporary lights and delays. M8 (Glasgow): lane closures and width restrictions between 6.30 pm and 6.30 am. A932: Single line traffic and temporary lights between Forfar and Frolicheim.

Information supplied by AA

Weather forecast

A depression to the N of Scotland will fill. A showery NW flow will affect most areas.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, central N England, East Anglia, Midlands: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy at times, dying out after dark; wind W moderate; max temp 16C (61F).

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy at times; wind NW strong; max temp 14C (57F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy at times, sleet or snow on occasions; wind NW strong; moderating slowly; max temp 12C (54F).

Shetland: Rather cloudy with showers; wind NW strong; max temp 9C (48F).

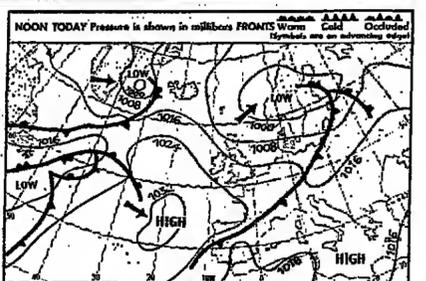
Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Showers in the first, becoming dry with sun in the afternoon. Rain at night in the NW. Rather cool with night frost in places at first, but temperatures rising to near normal.

Lighting-up time

Sun Rise: Sun Sets: 4.53 am 9.08 pm

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C. 11.2, F. 52.2

Bank: Buy: Sell: 115.5 115.5



High Tides

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.51	6.11	6.11	6.11
Aberdeen	3.14	4.0	8.11	8.11
Avonmouth	11.27	11.7	11.36	11.5
Belfast	10.12	10.18	11.36	10.7
Bove	2.55	3.5	3.34	3.2
Devonport	10.16	10.48	10.25	10.5
Dover	2.55	3.5	3.34	3.2
Falmouth	9.48	9.48	9.58	9.8
Glasgow	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47
Harwich	2.06	2.4	2.4	2.0
Hull	10.08	10.08	10.34	10.34
Ilfracombe	8.35	8.35	8.35	8.35
Leith	1.25	2.4	1.21	1.2
Liverpool	10.29	10.29	10.29	10.29
Lowestoft	1.25	2.4	1.21	1.2
Margate	4.03	4.7	4.16	4.5
Millwall	11.24	11.24	11.24	11.24
Newquay	9.18	9.18	9.49	9.4
Oban	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.44
Portsmouth	3.09	4.3	3.57	4.4
Southampton	7.39	7.39	7.39	7.39
Swansea	10.29	10.29	10.29	10.29
Wexford	7.39	7.39	7.39	7.39
Wilton-on-Aze	3.39	4.2	3.56	3.9

Around Britain

Location	Sun Rise	Max	Sun Rise	Max
East Coast	7.7	17.63	7.7	17.63
Scarborough	7.7	17.63	7.7	17.63
Driflington	7.9	17.63	7.9	17.63
Bristol	9.43	10.43	9.43	10.43
London	11.1	18.96	11.1	18.96
Lowestoft	11.1	18.96	11.1	18.96
Clacton	12.3	21.70	12.3	21.70
Weymouth	13.8	22.7	13.8	22.7
South Coast	14.5	19.81	14.5	19.81
Falmouth	10.6	15.8	10.6	15.8
Hastings	10.6	15.8	10.6	15.8
Bournemouth	10.6	15.8	10.6	15.8
Exeter	10.6	15.8	10.6	15.8
Cardiff	10.6	15.8	10.6	15

WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) - Wall Street share prices climbed further in early trading yesterday, extending the recovery that gave it last week's best gain in more than two months, traders said.

Declining interest rates, carryover buying and speculation that oil prices could fall further, helped the rise, they said.

The Dow Jones Industrial

Table with columns for stock symbols (AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.) and their respective prices and changes.

average was up 14.45 points to 1,837.74.

The transportation average was up 3.93 points to 801.89.

Advancing issues led declining issues by a margin of five to three on a thin early volume of eight million shares.

The most active share was Safeway, up 1/4 to 45.

Mr George Pirrone of the Dreyfus Corporation said that full revival of the bull market was still some way off.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing market rates for Sterling spot and forward rates, including columns for currency, rate, and bank.

Starting index compared with 1975 was down at 75.8 (day's range 75.7-75.9)

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Excal. *Lloyds Bank International

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies like Euro, Gold, and Treasury bills.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table showing Euro money deposit rates for different terms and currencies.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices and related financial data.

TREASURY BILLS

Table showing Treasury bill rates and prices.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures prices for various contracts.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various international currencies.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other sterling rates for different currencies and markets.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table showing investment trust performance and prices.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Table showing London commodity exchange prices for various goods.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Table showing meat and livestock prices and market activity.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Table showing London meat futures prices and contracts.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table showing financial trust performance and prices.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table containing detailed information for various unit trusts, including names, managers, and performance metrics.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

TEMPUS

FKI makes the most of opportunity

FKI's success is based on a simple formula. In the somewhat unglamorous specialist electrical engineering sector it has identified a market opportunity, developed a strategy to exploit it, and gone after it with determination.

As a result, it has seen its share price leap from 7 1/2p in October 1983, when it was granted a full listing on the Stock Exchange, to 84p today, taking its market capitalization to just under £100 million.

It seeks to acquire small electronic or light mechanical engineering companies, usually wholly owned subsidiaries of much larger companies, with good products. Generally, gross margins will be good, but the companies will usually be loss-making at the net level due to the weight of corporate overhead.

A string of acquisitions last year, £10.5 million worth, helped the company to boost its pretax profit by 66 per cent from £3.5 million to £5.7 million in the 12 months to March 31, 1986.

Following the latest acquisition of the engineering and components business of Thorn EMI for £11.65 million, FKI now consists of four main divisions averaging £20 million turnover each.

Mr John Chataway, of the brokers Kitcat & Aitken, expects Harris Queensway to make £60 million in the year to December 1987, allowing for its recent rights issue and the inclusion of Times Furnishing and Home Charm.

With profits expected to be coming through from its proposed five-division structure

by mid-1987, the group is intent on building a track record which will enable it to make a quantum leap. The shareholders will need to trust the management not to leap over a cliff, but on present form their trust is unlikely to be misplaced.

GUS/Harris Queensway

The stock market is taking its time to recognize the importance of last week's deal with Harris Queensway and Great Universal Stores.

As well as suggesting a solution to the potential problem of succession at GUS, the deal throws up an interesting anomaly in the share ratings accorded respectively to GUS and Harris Queensway.

At the year end Dunhill had net cash of £35.9 million, up from £16.6 million. Admittedly, the year end figure represents a seasonal peak.

The cash allowed Dunhill to increase its dividend by 45 per cent to a total of 5.5p, against a 41 per cent increase in earnings per share.

At the same time as scouring the country for suitable purchases, the company is spending capital on Dunhill, the original business taking in lighters and Montblanc, the pen manufacturing operation, which showed the best sales improvement in the group last year.

Both businesses should do well this year, with Lane the tobacco company in the United States likely to do no better than hold its own.

Overall, the company could be pressed to keep up last year's

Stripping out the cash from profits and the share price leaves the shares, at 498p, trading on a prospective multiple of only 11, assuming operating profits grow by 25 per cent in the present year.

Even though there is little speculative interest, with Rothmans International holding 51 per cent of the shares, that rating looks unsuitably dowdy.

It seems likely that Sir Philip will in time apply the same entrepreneurial flair to

GUS that he has applied at Harris Queensway. If so the discrepancy in the two companies' share ratings is bound to narrow.

Dunhill

Dunhill Holdings has much in common with its quality customers. Like the best of them, it has plenty of cash and would like to buy more luxury goods.

The general strategy is clearly successful. Profits rose from £15.1 million to £20.1 million last year, on sales up from £117 million to £130 million.

The market traders favour the move and the developer has asked the corporation to look into the feasibility of its proposals which include keeping the Horner market buildings and protecting the view of Christ Church, which was built by Hawksmoor.

The developer is not alone in wanting to redevelop Spitalfields to take advantage of big bang, which is causing financial conglomerates to take large amounts of office space.

Rosehaugh/Stanhope, the developer of nearby Broadgate at Liverpool Street station is also looking at the area.

The City Corporation may put the site out to tender, hoping that keen competition will result in a high price being paid for the site.

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LET aims to develop historic market

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

The Spitalfields Development Group, a consortium of London & Edinburgh Trust, the developer, and Balfour Beatty, the construction company, plans to redevelop the site occupied by the 300-year-old Spitalfields Market on the edge of the City of London with a multi-million pound office, retail and residential scheme.

Talks are underway with the City of London Corporation, owner of the 14 acre site, about moving the fruit, vegetable and flower market to a location owned by LET three miles away at Temple Mills, a former British Rail engineering works.

The market traders favour the move and the developer has asked the corporation to look into the feasibility of its proposals which include keeping the Horner market buildings and protecting the view of Christ Church, which was built by Hawksmoor.

The developer is not alone in wanting to redevelop Spitalfields to take advantage of big bang, which is causing financial conglomerates to take large amounts of office space.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Sell-off speculation fails to liven up Lonrho share price

Speculation in a rather subdued market yesterday suggested that Tiny Rowland's international trading group Lonrho was close to selling off part of its South African interests in a multi-million pound deal.

Dealers are convinced that Lonrho has been having secret talks with Mr. Harry Oppenheim's Anglo American Corporation for some time. If completed the deal could be worth \$400 million (£261 million) to Lonrho and would certainly please the City which

Expansion plans at Marks and Spencer could be good news for several of its main suppliers, including Stirling Group, 4p dearer at a new peak of 104p. Stirling has already geared up for the increased demand with its new ultra-modern factory in Manchester and the acquisition of rival B. Forster. Analysts are now rerating the shares and looking for pretax profits of £2.3 million against £1.8 million for the year to March just ended.

has only just started to warm to Lonrho shares.

The renewed speculation in the City about Lonrho's intentions followed a visit by some of the Lonrho board to the offices of Chase Manhattan Securities, one of the bigger dealing houses to emerge from the recent spate of City mergers. But shares of Lonrho failed to reflect the underlying speculation, closing only 1p firmer at 254p. Only a few weeks ago the price had traded as high as 274p amid growing bid speculation.

Michael Clark, who has an outstanding reputation as a market reporter, has joined The Times as senior stock market correspondent, the first of several new appointments designed to give readers the best daily coverage of the market.

Many fund managers believe that Lonrho shares may now start to rise after the expiry of the May traded options today. Speculators will be forced either to take up their options, or cash them in. This will bring a sigh of relief to many jobbers who appear to have worked hard to keep the speculators under pressure. Dealers are already talking the Lonrho share price up to 300p in the weeks ahead.

The rest of the equity market appeared to be taking an extended holiday break with turnover down to a trickle and investors cautious about opening new positions towards the tail-end of the long three week account. The wave of selling on the French Bourse on Monday did little help sentiment. As a result, the FT 30-share index closed 6.6 down at 1,342.8, having been more than 10 points down earlier in the day. The broader based FT-SE 100 fared little better finishing 5.3 lower at 1,612.1.

Among the leaders Hanson Trust, fresh from its victory over Imperial Group, sported a 6p rise to 184p. Full year figures are expected next week ahead of the Derby which the group now sponsors.

Among the leaders Beecham slipped 12p to 393p after a cautious press article and

Grand Metropolitan declined 9p to 406p on a reported denial of an approach from Philip Morris.

ICI also reflected the general mood, down 12p to 889p, and British Telecom eased 4p to 236p in spite of recent favourable comment.

A surprise bid for Cable House Properties from Ladbroke did little for the shares concerned. Cable losing 3p to 200p and Ladbroke 4p to 335p.

In contrast Don Bros, suspended at 130p, returned at

Expect some good news soon from the fast-growing food manufacturer Hazlewood Foods. Full-year figures expected within the next couple of weeks should make interesting reading, with market men looking for a sharp increase in pretax profits over last year's £6.1 million. Brokers like de Zoete & Bevan are forecasting at least £10 million with £15 million in prospect for 1987. The shares advanced another 10p to 803p.

168p following the 175p terms from Shell. Associated Newspapers, publisher of The Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday, greeted the news that its EuroMoney Publications subsidiary is coming to market with a 4p rise to 280p. EuroMoney, which specializes in publishing financial magazines covering banking and the Eurobond market, is expected to be capitalized at £90 million. Associated has a 90 per cent stake in the company.

Bumper profits boosted Dunhill 34p to 500p and Midsummer Inns 15p to 350p.

Japan is world's biggest creditor

From David Watts Tokyo

Japan replaced Britain as the world's biggest net creditor last year.

The ministry of finance here reported yesterday that Japan's balance sheet for 1985 showed \$129.8 billion worth of official and private assets abroad in excess of liabilities at the end of last year. That total was \$55.5 billion or almost 75 per cent more than in 1984.

The ministry estimated British net external assets at \$90 billion last year and West Germany's at \$50 billion. United States liabilities were estimated at \$60 billion.

Japan's gross external assets were up by 28.3 per cent, but at \$437.7 billion they still trailed both Britain and the US. The figure for Britain was \$712.2 and for the US \$914.7.

A third of Japan's external total comprised stock and bond investments, mostly in the US. The balance of such portfolio investments, totalling \$145.7 billion, was up by 66.4 per cent.

Our article of May 19 entitled "Auditors walk tight-rope over 'hidden' figures" about the prevalence of "improving" company accounts by hiding poor results, referred to a Department of Trade and Industry finding that "Cornhill's" accounting had been "unusually deceptive". We are glad to make it clear, and we accept, that the company criticized was Cornhill Consolidated, liquidated in 1974, and not the well-known and wholly unconnected Cornhill Insurance plc, to which we apologize for any confusion caused.

But the London Standard Survey is unique in questioning the people who pay for the campaigns and the people they're aimed at.

Names are named. Punches aren't pulled. Among the subjects probed for us by financial communications firm Dewe Rogerson:

What lessons can be learned from recent bloody take-over battles?

How are communications involved in the spectacular spread of share-ownership?

And what of life after Big Bang? Will you wake up to find your company owned by parties unknown on the far side of the world?

If you're concerned with any kind of corporate communications, investor relations or the strategies of corporate acquisition or defence, you should read the London Standard Survey.

Following its introduction on June 10th, we'll be holding a seminar on the 27th to go into it more deeply.

If you'd like a copy of the survey, telephone 01-353 0355.

And judge the whole business for yourself.

The LONDON STANDARD FOR A GREAT CITY

JUDGEMENT DAY FOR BRITISH BUSINESS TUESDAY JUNE 10

On June 10th, at a luncheon at the Savoy, British business will have a lot to digest. Its leaders will sit in judgement on their own ability to communicate. The topmost brass from Britain's top 100 companies and the City will be served the most authoritative survey to date on corporate communications. Communications? Isn't that the subject that Chief Executives hand swiftly down the line? Evidently, not any more. As our survey clearly shows. We sought and got views from the highest levels of industry and commerce; from the City, Parliament and the financial media; and from a broad spectrum of private and institutional shareholders. From such a disparate sample, there was a surprising amount of agreement: Corporate communications matter a lot, and are likely to matter more in future. Indeed, they're key to corporate policy-making. Now you'd expect to hear that from people in PR, advertising and the media. But the London Standard Survey is unique in questioning the people who pay for the campaigns and the people they're aimed at. Names are named. Punches aren't pulled. Among the subjects probed for us by financial communications firm Dewe Rogerson: What lessons can be learned from recent bloody take-over battles? How are communications involved in the spectacular spread of share-ownership? And what of life after Big Bang? Will you wake up to find your company owned by parties unknown on the far side of the world? If you're concerned with any kind of corporate communications, investor relations or the strategies of corporate acquisition or defence, you should read the London Standard Survey. Following its introduction on June 10th, we'll be holding a seminar on the 27th to go into it more deeply. If you'd like a copy of the survey, telephone 01-353 0355. And judge the whole business for yourself.

COMPANY NEWS

WHIM CREEK: The company says that it intends in 1986 to consolidate and further strengthen its position as the primary gold producer in the Meekatharra area in western Australia. The chairman, Mr Patrick J. Hughes, says in the annual report that the gold production target for 1986 is 40,000 oz from its Meekatharra operations. The plan produced 38,086 oz in 1985. RESOURCES: The company, which began gold production at its Cork Tree Well mine last month, expects to run at a capacity of 30,000 oz a year by the end of June. A total of 18,000 oz of gold is planned for the nine months to December 31, 1986, according to the annual report. Although the plant is still in the commissioning stage, gold discoveries are in excess of 90 per cent. GOLDBERG & SONS: Results for year to March 29. Dividend 3p (0.5), making 4p (1.1). It is the directors' intention that future dividends should reflect growth in profitability. Figures in £000. Pretax profit 2,558 (640), tax 1,173 (487). Earnings per share 8.1p (0.9). HUNTER SAPPHIRE: Final dividend 1.65p, making 2.5p (1.75). Figures in £000 for year to February 28. Turnover 73,649 (64,601), pretax profit 2,143 (1,166), tax 893 (423). Earnings per share pre-extraordinary items 7.60p (4.92). HEWDEEN-STUART: The company agreed to acquire the entire plant hire interests of the Isis Group, subject to the consent of Isis shareholders. The agreement envisaged a consideration of £6 million. The sum of £4,065 million is to be satisfied by the issue to Isis Plant of six million new Hewden ordinary shares and £883,612 (together with the consideration for the properties of £440,000) will be settled in cash by Hewden-Stuart. Morgan Grenfell has agreed to purchase from Isis Plant the six million new ordinary shares in Hewden-Stuart at 67.34p per share. Morgan Grenfell is placing these shares with institutional investors. NATIONAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL TRUST: Interim dividend 1.7p (1.5). Figures in £000 for six months to March 31. Gross revenue 3,387 (3,532), net revenue before tax 2,398 (2,130), tax 764 (702). Earnings per share 2.33p (2.21). Revenue account should remain buoyant for the second half. The board intends to recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares higher than that of 1985. HOME BREWERY CO: An interim dividend of 4p per share will be paid on the ordinary shares and S ordinary shares for the year to September 30. MIDSUMMER INNS: Figures in £000 for 26 weeks to March 31. Turnover 2,950 (932), pretax profit 404 (111), tax nil (same). Earnings per share 11.5p (10.3p adjusted). The second half has started well and the chairman expects to report a further substantial improvement at the year end. PERICOM: Results for six months to March 31. The directors have decided that interim dividends should be resumed and they have declared an interim of 1p. They expect to at least maintain the final at last year's 1.3p. Figures in £000. Turnover 8,694 (4,436), pretax profit 977 (loss 55). Earnings per share 7.8p (loss 0.6p). SENIOR ENGINEERING: The company has sold at book value the fixed assets (except the freehold land and buildings) and stocks and work-in-progress of its subsidiary, David Worthington, to Chilcotts for about £120,000 cash. NMW COMPUTERS: The company, through its subsidiary, Integrated Processing and Communications, and International City Holdings have established a jointly owned company, ICH Microprocessor Systems, to continue the development and marketing of the NMW-designed range of microprocessor work stations. ICH will have a controlling interest of 80.1 per cent and NMW will hold 19.9 per cent. DON BROTHERS, BUISH: Shell is to make agreed offers, totalling £23 million, for the ordinary and preference capital, subject to Don's pretax profits for 1985-86 being satisfactory. Terms for each ordinary share, 175p of nominal loan notes, 1991, with a cash alternative offer of 175p a share; for each preference share, 74p in cash. COLOROLL: Group final 3p, making 5p. Figures in £000 for year to March 31. Turnover 60,836 (37,369), pretax profit 6,230 (3,814), tax 2,398 (1,666). Earnings per share 13.6p. More company news, page 24

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes Equities, Rights Issues, and other financial data.

Interest Rate Change Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 27th May, 1986, its Base Rate was decreased from 10 1/2% to 10% p.a. Allied Irish Bank Head Office - Britain: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691 and branches throughout the country.

Shrinking market share forces rethink on prices and promotion

Co-op to shake up sales strategy

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The co-operative movement is launching an attempt to pull together an overall marketing and development strategy which could lead to increased spending on national promotion and a new edge to Co-op pricing.

The strategy will be in the hands of a new Co-op trade committee consisting of the chief executives of the nine biggest retail societies and of the retail division of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), the 10 together accounting for 60 per cent or more of all Co-op trade.

Steering the committee as chairman will be Mr Dennis Landau, chief executive of CWS, the movement's most powerful organization, financially and traditionally the provider of goods and services to retail societies.

The initiative emerged at Llandudno as the Co-operative Congress, the co-op movement's annual parliament, heard trading reports which showed that last year the Co-op again lost market share despite increased sales.

It now has 4.9 per cent of the total retail market compared with 5.1 per cent the year before as societies continued to wipe out the legacy of older and often smaller outlets.

Co-op turnover at £4,850 million was up 5.1 per cent and its surplus or profits rose 14.6 per cent to £47 million. Reserves have also jumped more than a fifth to £413 million.

Mr Garth Pratt, economic and research officer of the Co-operative Union, the organizing body for the movement, said: "Steady progress is now being made but trading performance is still not as good as it ought to be. The level of competition is now so formidable that we have to run very fast to maintain our position. But we have restructured to a remarkable extent, with the future of the movement already lying with the biggest 25 societies."

The biggest 22 societies now account for more than three quarters of Co-op trade, and the 30 smallest for only 0.5 per



Dennis Landau: margins from CWS under fire

cent. There are now 95 retail societies. Co-operative Retail Services (CRS), the biggest Co-op retailer, is responsible for 20 per cent of total Co-op turnover and the CWS retail division for nearly 10 per cent.

Trading profits of the societies as a proportion of sales has improved only slightly, moving from 1 per cent in 1984 to 1.1 per cent last year.

The benchmark for healthy trading has been put at 2.5 per cent. Of the top two dozen

societies about half already have profits running at this level with about half a dozen halfway there and as many again fighting their way out of adversity, Mr Pratt said.

On trading, Mr Pratt said there were wide disparities in individual performance by all the retail societies. He added: "There are tremendously encouraging and strong achievements. There are also those which are still apparently struggling against the tide. Regrettably for most of those it seems unlikely that the tide will turn."

It is against this background that the new committee is being launched to overcome the Co-op's structural commercial problem, its efforts being repaired among so many retail organizations.

Two key issues are expected to be tackled by the committee. One is profit margins after criticisms about those on offer from the CWS.

Mr Bill Farrow, this year's congress president who is also chief executive of CRS, complained in a key speech about the handicap presented by CWS, a clear reference to

rather poorer margins which can be on offer from CWS compared with those available in a big society buying direct from manufacturers and importers as do the big multiples like J. Sainsbury and Tesco Stores.

The committee is also expected to look at the problem of achieving a common approach among key societies to the branding of main trading concepts from superstores to new-style convenience outlets to which small Co-op shops are being increasingly converted. The Co-op last year increased its number of superstores to 65.

The CWS has long been frustrated over the proliferation of different names given by societies to what are essentially the same concepts, lessening the chances of setting up national promotions.

This will put the launching of new national promotions, including advertising campaigns, high on the agenda of the new committee.

The congress yesterday called for the CWS as a manufacturer to continue to reduce additives in foods.

Yearly pay increases may end, says CBI

By David Young

The annual wage increase could become a thing of the past, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) says in a report published today.

The employers' organization says the annual pay review, taken for granted during the period of high inflation, was now the subject of review in many companies. For many there may be better ways of determining proper pay levels, it says.

Employers are being asked by the CBI for their comments on the proposals by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, to introduce a profit-linked pay system under which at least 20 per cent of an employee's pay would be linked to profits.

The CBI says such a scheme would improve the commitment and involvement of the workforce in the success of their enterprise. It could also reduce upward pay pressure, make firms more likely to retain workers in difficult times and to recruit workers in better trade conditions.

"If we paid ourselves less, unemployment would not be so high," the CBI adds. "Pay settlements on average are still too high. Even allowing for further improvements in productivity, a further loss in competitiveness, market share, investment and jobs is implied if pay settlements as a whole stay around today's levels."

Spring brings 360,000 fall in EEC jobless

Luxemburg (Reuters)

The number of unemployed in the European Community fell by 360,000 in April from March as the end of winter brought opportunities for seasonal work, the Community's statistics office said yesterday. But it said the drop did not signify a fall in the underlying rate of joblessness in the 12 member states, noting that the April figure of 16.03 million was still 2 per cent higher than in April 1985.

Male unemployment has been cut sharply in some countries, with falls of 21 per cent in Denmark, and a dip of 0.2 per cent across the Community.

But the number of women out of work has risen by 5.2 per cent to the group

Country	1986		1985	
	April	March	April	March
W Germany	8.3	9.1	8.6	9.1
France	10.2	10.3	10.1	10.1
Italy	14.0	14.1	13.9	13.9
Netherlands	12.7	13.2	13.0	13.0
Belgium	11.9	12.2	12.2	12.2
Luxembourg	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.7
Britain	12.5	12.5	12.3	12.3
Denmark	7.8	8.8	8.3	8.3
Greece	8.0	8.4	8.2	8.2

The office does not publish percentage figures for Spain and Portugal since their unemployment rates are not based on the number of registered unemployed.

Of all members, Italy has fared the worst, registering an increase of 0.4 per cent in male unemployment, and 8.6 per cent in female.

Nuclear trade fair aims to restore confidence

By Our Energy Correspondent

Britain's nuclear industry will be strongly represented at a trade fair to be held in Geneva next month to promote the use of civil nuclear power.

Despite growing public fears over nuclear power safety in the wake of the accident in Chernobyl and the likely cancellation of several European nuclear projects, 211 companies from 19 countries will be represented at the five-day fair and conference.

A total of 14 British organizations, involved in nuclear power at home and in overseas markets, will be represented under the umbrella of the British Nuclear Forum.

Mr Alastair Goodlad, the Under Secretary of State for

Energy responsible for nuclear power will also attend the conference.

Sir John King, president of the British Nuclear Forum and also president of Foratom, the European Nuclear Forum, said: "We must recognize the public concern caused by the Chernobyl accident and the fact that in a democratic society nuclear power programmes must command public confidence."

"It would be irresponsible not to look very carefully at the lessons to be learned from this serious accident, but it would be equally irresponsible to forego the great benefits of nuclear power, as long as we are satisfied of its safety and public confidence."

APPOINTMENTS

E. W. Payne: Mr R. E. Bridge has been appointed managing director, composite division.

State Bank of New South Wales: Mr R. F. W. Watson, former agent general for New South Wales in London, has been made chairman.

C. E. Heath: Mr R. C. Pooley has been made deputy chairman.

Manufacturers' Hanover

Trust: Mr Geoffrey Dean has been appointed assistant vice-president.

George Wimpey: Mr Andrew Panter has been made managing director of Wimpey Hobbs and a director of Wimpey Asphalt.

Inbucon Management Consultants: Mr John Barnard has become a director.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

Time for the LME to stop complaining

The outburst from Mr Jacques Lion, chairman of the London Metal Exchange board, was an understandable *cri de coeur*. The exchange and its members took a severe battering during the tin crisis. They had barely emerged from the sweat from under their tin hats before the second wave of bombers, this time bearing the unmistakable insignia of the Securities and Investments Board, darkened the sky.

Indignation at seeming to be everyone's target is a natural reaction, especially for a body with such strongly conservative instincts. But Mr Lion's agitation, I fear, did neither him nor the exchange credit. Let me remind you of what he said.

By settling outstanding contracts on which the International Tin Council's members had defaulted, Mr Lion said that LME members "demonstrated to the world at large and, in particular, to the 22 defaulting sovereign nations comprising the Tin Council, what the sanctity of contract means."

He said: "You may find it somewhat ironic that in these circumstances Her Majesty's Government finds it necessary to introduce somewhat draconian measures to pro-

tect private investors from the machinations of our members. Who, I wonder, is to protect the markets of the City of London from the depredations of governments?"

"So, at a time when we should be receiving every possible assistance to rebuild and restore confidence in our market as a result of the tin crisis, we are having to protect our market from the demands of government that we should abandon our principal's contract, which has served industry well for over a century, for a clearing house market which the trade has emphatically stated it does not wish to see, particularly in view of the higher costs involved."

Now the exegesis begins. There is no doubt that the LME's members eventually did what they could to defend sanctity of contract, although the LME and the banks might differ about who provided the idea of the final exchange of cheques, and about how efficiently it was carried out. The point was that the members paid up and the ITC, or rather its members, did not.

But what is the logical connection between that credible event and government measures to protect private investors which makes the



Jacques Lion: "Sanctity of contract demonstrated"

latter "ironic"? Apart from the general and ancient sentiment that if governments cannot be trusted in one sphere they cannot be trusted in another, the answer is: Not much.

The circumstances are very different. For a start the British Government did not want to default on its ITC obligations. It is only tarred with the same brush as those who did want to default because the machinery of the ITC prevented it from reaching a separate agreement.

Yet, even if the Government had been an enthusiastic defaulter, it does not follow that it should not attempt to

prevent malpractices, depredate and worse in the City at the expense of private investors.

The LME has in the past been the first to admit that the little oversight of Duxford, Imperial Commodities *et al* damaged the reputation of commodities and futures trading as a whole.

The best possible protection for the private investor is presumably inherently desirable even if, as Mr Lion rightly implies, there is no final protection against governments. There never has been and there never will be. Mr Lion is not the first to ask, *Sed quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* (But who will guard the guardians themselves?)

By the same token history is littered with huge corporate and business defaults in which wicked governments played no part. The principal's contract offers no immunity against that.

Nor, as Mr Lion alleges, is the Government "demanding" that the LME abandon its principal's contract, however long it has existed. It is true that the SIB criteria for a Recognized Investment Exchange - sent out, incidentally, in January and so far unanswered officially by the LME - set great

store by clearing houses of a kind so far entirely foreign to the LME.

But LME members themselves, in various papers, have suggested solutions to this problem, including effectively setting up two markets, one for futures business and another physical market for trade business.

The real clue to the LME's objections lies in the squeals from trade (industrial) users of the exchange who do not want the extra cost a clearing house would involve. In that Mr Lion is certainly correct.

Clearing houses, however, are commonplace today, and futures business means the world's financial markets. Who London should be different is baffling. And plenty of LME members agree. An LME sub-committee will today report on the changes in organization required by the LME to meet the SIB criteria for an RIE.

What Mr Lion meant by "receiving every possible assistance to rebuild and restore confidence in our market" is obscure. Not help from the iniquitous Government surely.

The LME should build on its robust tradition of self help, recognize that a new regulatory regime is upon us and stop complaining.

Michael Prest

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Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

BRITISH PRINTING & COMMUNICATION CORP

Mr Robert Maxwell, the chairman, says in his annual statement that pretax profits for the first four months of the current year, which only include three weeks of the benefits of the Penguin Journals acquisition, show a substantial increase compared with the corresponding period in 1985, reflecting in part a significant contribution from the printing of the Mirror Group's newspapers. The board is confident that, with the additional profits from the journals, the results for the first half of 1986 "will show the quantum leap in BPCC's profitability for the current year and demonstrate its exciting prospects for the future."

REABROOK HOLDINGS

Brencliffe, which makes and distributes car-care cloths and houseware cleaning products, has been bought for £291,450 cash. In the year to March 31, 1986, Brencliffe made a pretax profit of £119,970 and its net assets at that date were £314,634.

SEAFIELD

Sales for 1985 (£27.23 million (£6.46 million)) against £27.64 million. Pretax loss £186,000 (profit £117,000). Loss per share, before extraordinary items, 8.8p (earnings 4.2p) and loss per share afterwards, 27.9p (earnings 2p).

BSG INTERNATIONAL

The company has sold its vehicle seat-manufacturing offshoot, Dynasafe, to Twil. The cash price will be based on the net assets of Dynasafe at April 30 last, plus a premium. In addition, BSG's loan at that date will be repaid. An initial payment of about £600,000 has been received.

NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES

Turnover for £838,000 (£1.17 million). Pretax loss £697,000 (loss £71,000). Loss per ordinary share 2.7p (2.2p). No dividend forecast.

KELSEY INDUSTRIES

Half-year to March 31 last, interim dividend 2.5p (same), payable on July 4. Turnover £13.7 million (£17.64 million). Pretax profit £358,000 (£836,000). Earnings per share 3.8p (12.5p). The board expects the year's results to be close to last year's.

MILLETTS LEISURE SHOPS

Results for the 53 weeks to Feb. 3, 1986, compared with the previous 52 weeks. Total dividend cut from 3.95p to 3p. Turnover (excluding VAT) £30.38 million (£29.05 million). Profit before tax £1,000 (loss £296,000). Earnings per share 0.8p (loss 6.3p).

CLAYTON, SON & CO (HOLDINGS)

The fixed assets, drawings, name and stocks of Fielding and Platt (in receivership) have been bought for £378,000 cash. Fielding makes hydraulic presses and machinery for the construction and metals industries.

NICOR

A private investor group plans to purchase the Houston-based inland barge operation of National Marine Service, a subsidiary of Nicor, but the deal is subject to agreement on a definitive contract.

Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect from close of business on 28th May 1986 its Base Rate for lending is reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum



Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members of National Australia Bank Limited will be held at 36th Floor, 500 Bourke Street, Melbourne, on Thursday June 26th, 1986, at 2.30 p.m.

Special Business

To consider and if thought fit to pass a Special Resolution to approve the National Australia Bank Staff Share Scheme and to amend the Company's Articles of Association to permit implementation of the Scheme.

By order of the Board
R. J. Barnier, Secretary
May 22nd, 1986.

Proxies

A member or other person entitled to vote may appoint not more than two proxies to attend and vote instead of him. Where more than one proxy is appointed, each proxy must be appointed to represent a specified proportion of the Member's voting rights. A proxy need not be a Member of the Company.

National Australia Bank

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Firm foundations in the Chinese wall

Financiers working in the same conglomerate need safeguards to avoid a clash of client interests

Scene: a wine bar in the City. At the table are three City characters all of whom work for one of the new financial conglomerates which dominate the investment and securities industry in this country.

One of them works for the corporate finance department, advising companies on such matters as take-overs, share issues, and mergers. Another buys and sells shares for the conglomerate (a market maker), and the final one manages pension fund money.

This combination is perfectly feasible given the size and diversity of the large financial conglomerates, which will be fully operational after the "Big Bang" deregulation of the Stock Exchange.

It demonstrates the two main needs for the so-called Chinese wall arrangements, whereby information available to one part of a firm is withheld from other sections. The idea is that individual sections of the firm must operate within the criteria applicable to their discrete functions and not on the basis of any broader interest.

The corporate finance person, for instance, must not pass on any non-public information about the companies he deals with in his department to the market maker, or indeed to the pension fund manager. This separation of functions is essential to provide a defence against a charge of insider trading.

Segregation is also essential as a method of resolving situations giving rise to conflicts of interest.

For instance, the corporate financier may be acting for Company A, which is bidding for Company B. If the fund manager has shares in Company B, and is wondering what he should do with them, he should make his decision

purely on an investment basis — what is good for the pension funds he manages — and not be influenced by the needs of his colleague in the corporate finance department. The interests of the corporate financier and the pension fund manager do not necessarily coincide, and may in fact conflict.

The Chinese wall system may seem implausible. Moreover the strict segregation it requires may also seem to defeat much of the purpose behind forming financial conglomerates — to group together various functions under the same legal umbrella.

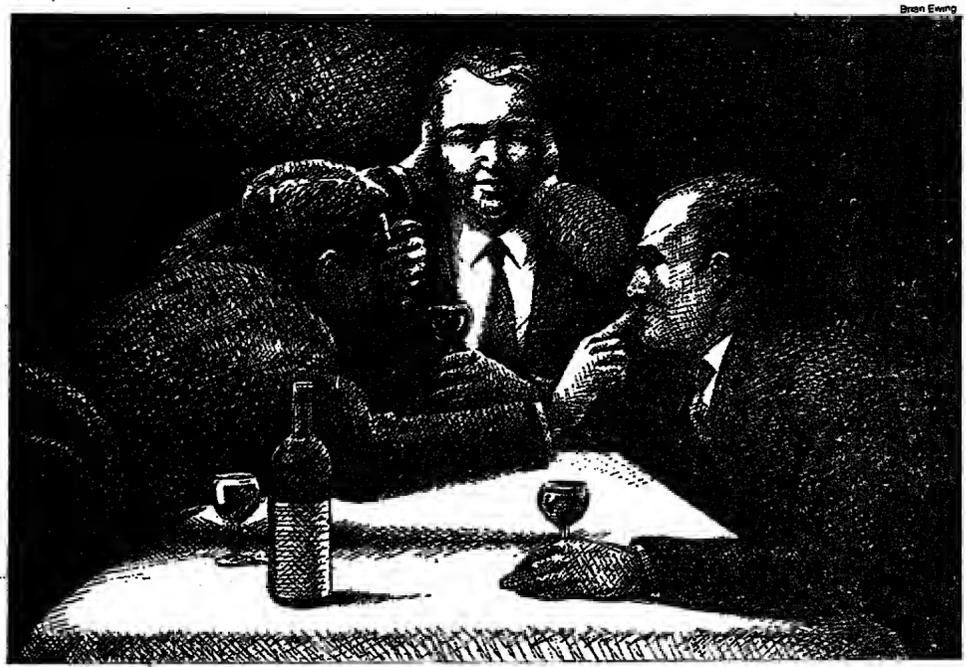
But Chinese walls, rather like belief in a deity, require an effort of faith on the part of the outsider. The conglomerate or firm can of course make this effort a little less

Defence against insider trading

strenuous by having rigorous compliance checks as well as arrangements such as physical separation of departments. Warburg Securities, for instance, have total physical separation of its asset management and dealing functions, with the sections also having separate boards.

Moreover in a world where institutions jump in and out of bed easily, and where reputation of financial services firms counts for so much, the short-term benefit of breaching a Chinese wall could, if detected or even only suspected, spell financial ruin for the firm concerned as the institutions desert for what they consider are more trustworthy havens.

It is therefore vital for firms to establish good compliance procedures — ensuring that employees are aware of what the regulations



require and establishing the systems and procedures, including Chinese walls, to see that they are complied with. As Stephen Raven, group compliance director at Warburg Securities, says: "Good compliance is good business."

At the moment the new legislation which will govern financial services, and the codes of conduct emerging from it, are prepared to give Chinese walls a chance to prove themselves against the sceptics.

The basic principle of disclosure of interest underpins the Financial Services Bill and the draft "conduct of business" rules produced by the Securities and Investment

Board. In their final form these will provide the benchmark to which all the other mini-regulators and self-regulatory organizations must measure up.

The idea behind disclosure is that if you declare a material interest to a client or investor, then conflicts, potential or otherwise, are neutralized because the decision is in effect his. It is a decision based on all the relevant facts, and underpinned by the fact that he had the opportunity not to proceed.

Disclosure however cannot cater for all situations, as the example of the three employees of the same conglomerate shows.

Hence clause 45 of the Financial Services Bill, which sets out the framework for the conduct of business rules, says that these may make provision "enabling or requiring information obtained by an authorized person in the course of carrying on one part of his business to be withheld by him from persons with whom he deals in the course of carrying on yet another part".

The expression "Chinese walls" is not actually enshrined in the Bill, but it is clear that it is this that it is referring to. Chinese walls do however get a mention in the Licensed Dealers (Conduct of Business) Rules 1983 — a statutory instrument, which says that where

the walls are in place, individuals may advise clients without disclosing that a material interest exists in another part of the firm

Quite how deep and tall the Chinese walls must be remains an open question. The decision rests with the Securities and Investment Board — the SIB — which will produce the conduct of business rules in accordance with Clause 45 of the Bill. The SIB, at the time the Bill was published, reiterated the general principle that material interests must be disclosed to investors, and that Chinese wall arrangements alone are not sufficient to remove this obligation. To do so the arrangements must achieve what they set

out to achieve, in other words to be impregnable.

The Board said that it was "prepared to provide that where information is genuinely not known to the individuals involved, directly or indirectly, in dealing with the customer, then the interest need not be disclosed. If the interest is not known it cannot affect the advice given".

This statement was the precursor to some tough draft provisions for Chinese walls contained in the draft conduct of business rules issued by the SIB in February.

These made it clear that the SIB wants not just Chinese wall arrangements, but also supervisory procedures to ensure that they are effective. Moreover Chinese walls only obviate the need for disclosure where they would mean that the person dealing did not know, nor could have known, of the existence of a conflict of interest.

In other words genuine and understandable ignorance of a conflict will be excused. Genuine ignorance which is nevertheless not understandable — generally because the person concerned

Disclosure also gives protection

ought to be aware of the conflict — will not be excused.

Chinese wall arrangements will of course be bolstered by the compliance departments which the conglomerates are in the process of developing, and by the provisions requiring reporting and publication of securities transactions, combined with the best execution rule.

Segregation of functions is clearly not going to have an easy ride in the newly established environment. Certainly firms are developing systems for securing it — as far as this is possible when one is dealing with human beings. These will at least, along with regulations, reinforce in people's minds the need to avoid conflicts of duty.

Lawrence Lever

Mergers and Acquisitions Tombstone Tally

1984			1985		
1984 M&A activity Ranked by number of deals advertised as initiated in 1984			1985 M&A activity Ranked by number of deals advertised as initiated in 1985		
RANK	FIRM	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	RANK	FIRM	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS
1	Henry Ansbacher	26	1	Henry Ansbacher	36
2	Goldman Sachs	20	2	Goldman Sachs	27
3	PaineWebber	15	3	Citicorp	19
4	Kidder Peabody	14	4	Kidder Peabody	17
5	First Boston	13	5	Bear Stearns	16
5	Merrill Lynch	13	5	Drexel Burnham Lambert	16
5	Financo	13	6	Merrill Lynch	15
8	Salomon Brothers	10	6	PaineWebber	15
9	Drexel Burnham Lambert	9	6	Salomon Brothers	15
10	Alex. Brown & Sons	7	7	Prudential-Bache Securities	11
10	Smith Barney, Harris Upham	7	8	Smith Barney, Harris Upham	10
11	Bear Stearns	6	8	Shearson Lehman Brothers	10
11	Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette	6	9	Alex. Brown & Sons	9
11	Lazard Freres	6	10	Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette	9



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The long queue to buy shares in British Telecom, and below, counting the mass of applications at Lloyds Bank, Moorgate

The great rush to go private

The Government's privatization programme is now in full swing. Selling off state-owned companies is intended to raise nearly £20 billion over the next four years.

This compares with asset sales totalling £7.6 billion in the seven years since the Conservatives took office. The pace of privatization is hotting up but, at the same time, the price of failure has become much higher.

There is no doubt that the successful flotation of British Telecom shares transformed the privatization programme from a cottage industry in the Treasury to the centre of the

Share ownership is a key element in selling state assets

economic policy stage.

The Telecom issue killed two birds with one stone, transferring assets priced by the Government at £4 billion to the private sector and at the same time fostering wider share ownership.

According to John Moore, the newly appointed Transport secretary, and formerly the financial secretary to the Treasury and the man directly responsible for privatization, wider share ownership is a key element in selling state assets.

"Our strategy is that our first preference is generally a UK public offer for sale with guaranteed participation by employees and the general public," he told the Institute for International Research conference on privatization last month.

"Sometimes, however, the nature of the company which we are selling does not make this a practical proposition. If a public offer is not possible, then a sale which leads to employees holding a major stake is often the next best alternative."

The Telecom sale encouraged about one million people



to own shares who had never done so before, according to Treasury figures.

It is a lesson that will be carried through to the privatization of British Gas starting this autumn. British Airways (assuming the current difficulties can be resolved), the National Bus Company, Rolls-Royce, the airports, the Royal Ordnance Factories, and looking a little further ahead, the privatization of the water boards.

Government-sponsored share sales.

David Clementi, a director of merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, financial advisers to the Government on the British Telecom sale, believes that the later privatizations are distinguished from the earlier ones by the realization that small investors, rather than just the major financial institutions, are a legitimate market for

with Dewe Rogerson, the advertising and public relations agency embarked on an energetic campaign to entice small shareholders into British Telecom. It included regional co-ordinators, brochures, advertising and roadshows. The BT train became a familiar sight as it travelled around the country for several weeks.

Having established shareholding in the minds of small investors, Telecom has made it easier for those that follow. It was noticeable that last year's sale of Cable & Wireless shares, with very little direct effort, attracted far more interest from small investors than the previous one, in 1981.

It is a message that the team at N M Rothschild, advising the Government on the privatization of British Gas, has taken fully on board. Whereas the Telecom campaign had to introduce potential shareholders both to the company and to the idea of holding shares, the British Gas campaign can focus on the attractions of the company.

British Telecom attracted 2.3 million applications from shareholders. It is an unofficial target to beat this for British Gas.

The British Gas sale, expected to raise £8 billion, is the major test for privatization. In addition to the small investor and UK financial institutions, it is almost certain that a significant part of the sale will be targeted to foreign buyers.

Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, Nomura of Japan, Wood Gundy of Canada

and the Swiss Bank Corporation, have been asked to help advise on the overseas aspect of the British Gas sale.

One issue the Government has to look to the City for guidance on is the method of sale for privatization issues. In crude terms, an issue by tender is always in danger of remaining with the underwriters, while a fixed price sale runs the risk that, if the share price subsequently rises sharply, the Government is accused of selling off precious assets cheaply.

John Moore has an answer to the latter point. "It is an

Looking to the City for guidance on methods for new sales issues

easy jibe for some academic theorists who do not understand the market, or our political opponents to say, after the event, that proceeds should have been higher from a particular sale," he said. "They look at the market price in the period after the sale and, if it has gone up, they say that the Exchequer has lost out. What nonsense. The share price performance of companies after privatization is at least partly a reflection of how the profitability and efficiency of the companies have increased as a direct result of being privatized."

The official line is that each sell-off will be taken on its own merits. But it appears that, with the full approval of the Government's various financial advisers, fixed price issues will remain the general rule.

The Government claims to get good value for money from the City out of privatization, countering the charge that asset sales line the pockets of the Conservative Party's supporters in the Square Mile.

Treasury figures show that aggregate stockbroking and underwriting commissions on the latest privatization issues, at less than 1.5 per cent, are below the 2 per cent average for comparable large private sector issues.

The City has good reason to offer keen prices for floating off public corporations. There is a good chance that the financial advisers selected by the relevant Government department in the beauty contest will stay with the privatized company in some form. Privatization offers City firms a chance to project themselves to a large audience, which will become increasingly important in the new, more competitive era.

There is a danger with privatization, that after the jewels have been picked out of the crown and sold, the Government will be left with a lump of unsaleable, loss-making, state industries. However, the addition of the water authorities to the sell-off list, which already contains more than enough for the rest of this decade, suggests that there is still quite a long way to go before this point is reached.

David Smith

Economics correspondent

Fair play watchdogs in the takeover tussles

The surge in takeover activity on the stock market coupled with the growing tendency to use new and more aggressive tactics has created a heavy workload for the takeover panel — the City body responsible for policing bid battles.

Last year's £9 billion worth of bids looks set to be exceeded comfortably this year. The two biggest completed takeovers so far this year — Hanson Trust for Imperial and Guinness for Distillers — have already added up to more than £5 billion. Two more bitterly contested giant bids — Dixons for Woolworth and Lloyds Bank for Standard Chartered — are now in progress.

The takeover panel is being called on more and more to arbitrate in these often bitter battles. Its primary function is to ensure that all shareholders are treated equally. If the panel, however, fails to give the desired answer, the aggrieved party will now often take the case to court.

The tendency to seek a judicial review, rather than accept the takeover code as interpreted by the panel, presents problems of authority for the panel. The 140 pages of the code attempt to spell out how a bid should be conducted, but changing tactics sometimes mean the code has not got the appropriate rule for the new situation.

The panel has no statutory backing and is therefore frequently accused of having no teeth. It relies for its effectiveness on willingness among City institutions to obey its rulings. The fear is that with the Big Bang approaching, conflicts of interest proliferating and competition increasing, the temptation will grow to flout the panel. As it stands the panel has no sanction against potential offenders.

In recent months the panel has come under fire for some of its decisions. In March it announced a new code aimed at banning knocking advertising in a bid battle. The advertising industry was immediately up in arms criticizing the panel for meddling in areas which it felt were the responsibility of the Advertising Standards Authority.

The panel has always had a duty to vet advertising copy to see that it complied with the code, but it clearly felt that some of the full-page ads being taken out in national newspapers were going too far. With

Tactics outstrip rules in code

writs flying between some of the bid contestants over derogatory ads, the panel's intervention was not totally surprising.

Two more recent rulings have caused controversy over the degree of discretion the panel is allowed to exert. The panel absolved Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, and its client Hillside Holdings from having to produce a cash alternative in the bid for S. & W. Berisford, although the code technically demanded this.

Kleinwort had inadvertently breached the 15 per cent ceiling on share purchases in the year before a bid by buying 15.2 per cent of Berisford. Technically this should have triggered a cash offer to all shareholders at the highest price paid in the market by Hillside. The highest price was well above the paper offer price and enforcement of the rule would have been a bitter pill for Hillside to swallow. Charterhouse Japhet, Berisford's merchant bank, asked the panel to enforce the rule, but was turned down. The panel stressed that it considered the rule important, but was not enforcing it in this case because the breach was both small and inadvertent.

The full panel, consisting of a dozen representatives of City organizations, including merchant banks, insurance companies, clearing banks, pension funds and industry representatives, was convened to consider the 15 per cent breach issue. The executive, which handles the day-to-day



John Walker-Haworth will head a team of executives in the new era after Big Bang — but will the panel be able to retain its voluntary role?

decisions, had already indicated that it did not think Kleinwort's breach would involve a cash offer. However, a full panel meeting was called because of sensitivity after the full panel had overturned the decision of the executive on another matter.

The full panel had decided that Robert Maxwell's acceptance of a non-executive directorship on the board of Demerger, the company bidding for Exel, constituted a concert-party. The executive had earlier ruled that there was no concert party and Mr Maxwell had consequently bought more shares in Exel.

The Demerger bid, to which Mr Maxwell assented his 13 per cent holding in Exel, has now lapsed, but Mr Maxwell is prevented from launching his own bid for another year. He has also spent around £5 million on the additional shares, which are now worth far less in the market-place in the absence of bid speculation.

The apparent division between the executive and the full panel has caused nervousness in some quarters about placing too much reliance on an executive ruling. There is virtually no right of appeal

against the full panel's decision. The full panel, which does not include the executive, is itself much like a final court of appeal. The full panel has to give permission for an appeal to be lodged.

The system, despite the recent strains caused not least by the pressure of work on the executive, has functioned fairly effectively to date. City institutions do respect the code and the panel enforcing it, although the fear that was once inspired in a merchant banker when he was summoned to explain himself before the panel has long since evaporated.

The executive is headed by John Walker-Haworth, who has absented himself for two

Final court of appeal

years from S.G. Warburg, the merchant bank. Mr Walker-Haworth presides over a team of 11 executives and a supporting secretarial staff. The full panel is headed by Sir Jasper Holton, a former deputy governor of the Bank of England.

Whether the panel will be able to retain its self-regulatory and voluntary role in the new era after the Big Bang depends to a large extent on how far the various bidding companies and their merchant bank advisers are prepared to push against the spirit of the code, rather than its letter. If the game goes the way it has in America, where takeover battles are generally nastier as rules about shareholder equality do not exist, the panel has a hard time ahead of it.

Alison Eadie

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Privatizations (profit and loss record)

Date Sold	SALES SO FAR				Minimum Holding	Value at	Profit/(Loss)
	Sale Price	Price at 23.5.86	Proceeds (£m)				
British Aerospace	Feb 81	150	547	43	50	273.5	198.5
Cable & Wireless	May 85	375	547	346	100	547	172
	Oct 81	168	635	182	100	635	467
	Dec 83	275	635	263	100	635	380
	Dec 85	587	635	580	50	317.5	24
Amersham Int	Feb 82	142	370	64	100	370	228
Britoil	Nov 82	215	178	627	100	178	(37)
	Aug 85	185	178	431	200	353	(7)
Associated British Ports	Feb 83	112	590	46	100	590	478
	Apr 84	270	590	53	100	590	320
Enterprise Oil	Jun 84	186	121	380	100	121	(64)
Jaguar	Jul 84	165	467	287	100	467	302
British Telecom	Nov 84	130	230	2,516	200	460	200

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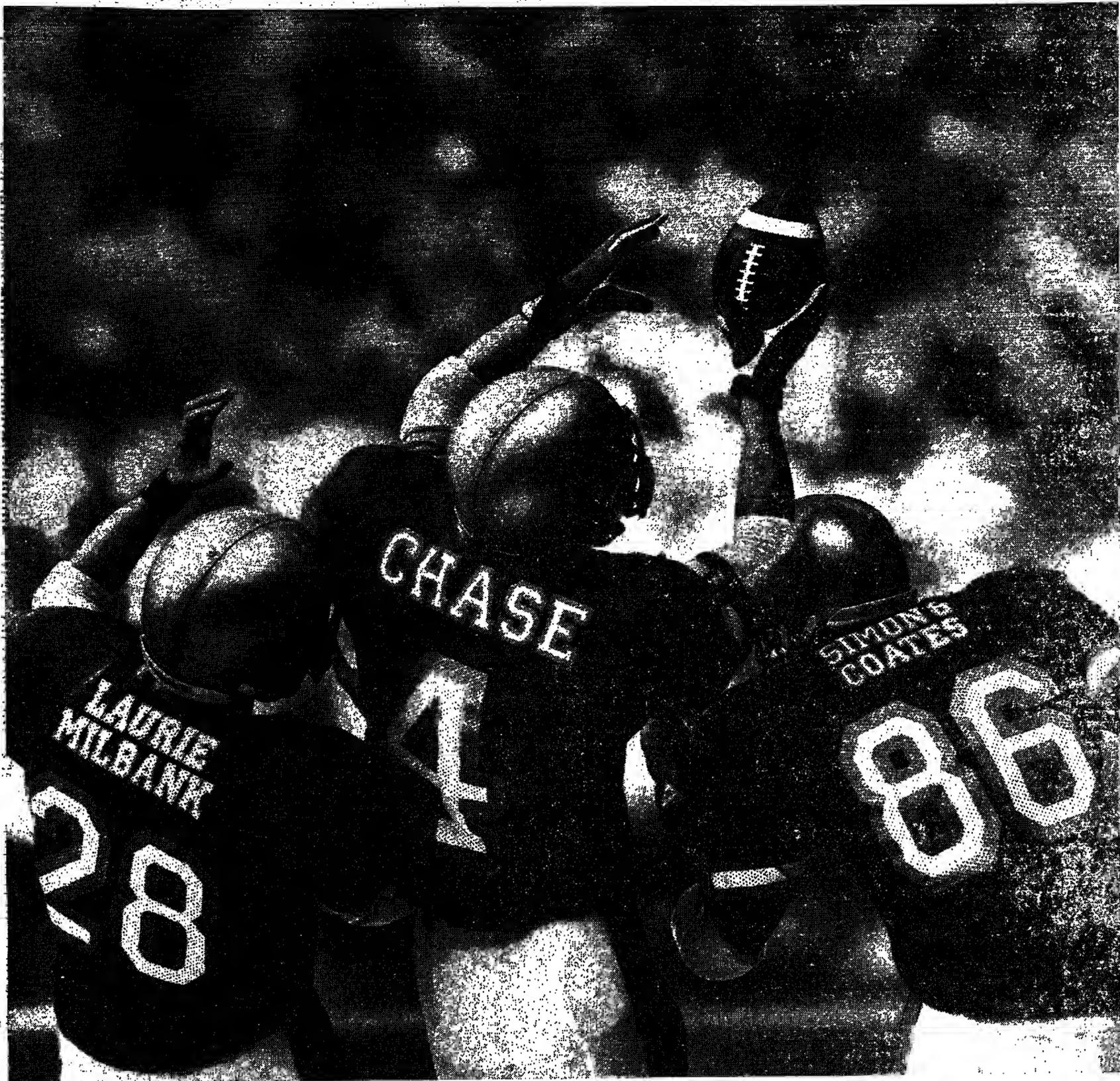
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Ms Ross and the £100,000 option

Not so long ago in Britain, a company's monetary affairs were run by a finance director whose job it was to speak to the local bank manager to arrange the best interest rates for borrowings and deposits. Today, the finance director is still around, but the direct day-to-day management of a company's cash positions is likely to be in the hands of a new animal — the corporate treasurer.

This modern breed of financial overseer, who might be more accustomed to snatching a hurried lunch while huddled over a video terminal in the company dealing room than enjoying a leisurely repast in the boardroom, has emerged to cope with the increasing volatility in the world money markets. The break-up of the postwar, fixed-rate currency agreements and the wild swings of the oil price have made foreign exchange and interest rates move as never before.

For a corporate treasurer, particularly those working for a company engaged in foreign business, the problem is how to prevent those currency and interest rate fluctuations eating into the profits earned by the firm's core business.

Fortunately there are now a whole range of new financial instruments available to help the treasurer do just that. The aim of these instruments is not necessarily to enable a company to borrow money or buy foreign currencies on better terms than they might have been able to do; rather to fix those terms over a future period and eliminate uncertainty.

If this is done, the company can forecast its cash flows with greater accuracy and the corporate treasurer can sleep more soundly at night.

On the foreign exchange side, in the last decade there has been an explosion in currency options, which give the company the right, but not the obligation as in futures markets, to buy or sell a currency on or before a certain date at a fixed price.

Companies can choose two routes if they want to take out an option. They can arrange a tailor-made agreement with their own bankers or trade an option on one of the international exchanges that offer them.



Susan Ross, treasurer at Reuters: Seeking the interest-rate advantage over competitor companies

In Britain, the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFE) and the Stock Exchange both offer currency options, while in America options can be traded in Chicago, the mother city of options and futures, and on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, which recently announced a link-up with its London counterpart that enables a contract taken out on one market to be settled on the other.

Options, which supposedly started in 400 BC when the philosopher Thales put a deposit on an olive press during winter in case he needed it for the summer, are essentially insurance policies, with the price paid being the equivalent of an insurance premium.

For example, the treasurer of an English carpet exporter who expects to receive \$10,000 in six months' time and wants to hedge against currency fluctuations might buy the right to purchase sterling at a \$1.50 exchange rate for a premium of 3 cents.

If, when the time comes, the pound is worth \$1.55, he would be advised to sell the dollars on the spot market and forget about the option. But if

the pound had slumped to \$1.40, the treasurer would take up the option at a net rate of \$1.47.

Options provide certain advantages over forward cover, the traditional form of hedging foreign exchange risk where a company takes out a contract with a bank to buy or sell a currency on a future date, usually a set number of months ahead.

Options, especially those made with a bank, can be customized to suit a company's particular require-

ments on dates and size. They can also bring a handy extra profit if the currency markets move the right way and are especially suitable for project tenders, where a company may not know until the last day whether it is going to receive a pile of foreign currency.

But there are drawbacks. Whereas the cost of forward cover is easily calculated by taking the difference in interest rates between two currencies, option prices are worked

out by computer programs — the best known being the Black-Scholes program developed in America — that also take the volatility of the underlying currency into account.

Finally, though many companies can build the cost of forward cover into a contract price when it is translated into their domestic currency, they may have to take the cost of options into the profit-and-loss account.

On the domestic scene, companies are also turning to

meet future receipts — wants to swap a loan arranged at fixed rates for a floating rate arrangement.

These are only some of the simplest arrangements available and the marketing departments of our leading banks have other more complicated products up their sleeves, which may combine swaps and options or bring in other facilities such as interest rate caps, which as their name suggests, put a limit on the interest rate that a borrower will pay. As both banks and companies will admit, the complexity of some new financial instruments can bring headaches.

Bank officials are well aware that the very mention of the words "options" or "swaps" may make certain company chairmen jump out of their seat with fright.

Said one banker: "When the chairman of a manufacturing company in Barnsley thinks of options he thinks of those screaming hordes of Chicago traders and how they make and lose fortunes in a minute. What he doesn't think about is how they can save his company some money."

According to Anthony Williams of Barclays Merchant Bank, it is a question of using education to narrow the "culture gap" between banks, corporate treasurers and company directors. He said: "The terms that bankers take for granted in everyday use may just be understood by the treasurer but could baffle the board."

From the other side of the counter, however, some treasurers feel that offered by banks have been worked out by the back-room boys who understand their computers better than the CEOs of their customers.

At Reuters, for instance, two in-house dealers handle all the company's receipts to no less than 27 currencies and Sue Ross says she can meet all her normal hedging requirements through forward cover arrangements without any recourse to contracts.

She said: "I'm very sceptical about how widely used some of these new things are."

Richard Lander

The mere mention of 'options' may fill chairmen with fear

options to cover interest rate fluctuations, which are subject to the tribulations of the economy and both domestic and foreign political events.

One frequent user of these options is Susan Ross, the treasurer at Reuters. After working out the likely future sterling revenues coming to

from the sales of Reuters financial information systems around the world for one year hence, Ms Ross will negotiate an option, for example, to deposit £100,000 for six

months starting in a year's time at 9% per cent.

If the pound does badly and British interest rates have to rise, she will be able to get better rates when she actually has the money to band. But if interest rates slump because of decreasing inflation, Ms Ross can earn interest at 9% per cent — less her option cost of course — while others all around her are getting a miserable 5 per cent and receiving a dressing-down from the board of directors to boot.

Companies that need to borrow cash, of course, do the same in reverse. They can also take advantage of another facility developed by banks over the past few years — interest rate swaps. These enable a company to convert a loan taken out at floating interest rates into a fixed-rate borrowing.

This is particularly useful if a company thinks interest rates are going to level off or rise but is unable on its own to obtain a fixed-rate loan. The bank takes on the company's credit risk and acts as a marriage broker, pairing it off with another company which for some reason — perhaps to

Confidence tempered by fear of a major upset

The recent record-breaking run of rights' issues has frightened investors. In one hugely demanding week earlier this month there were no less than four major rights issues including a £714 million blockbuster from National Westminster, the largest ever. In the same week the FT Ordinary Share Index plummeted 41 points.

In the City the fall in the market was blamed entirely on the spate of rights issues, and these became a talking point.

Kenneth Inglis, of the stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, refers to a "series of obsessions". In the first three months of the year investors were preoccupied by the excellent prospects for profit increases; now they are worried by rights issues; in the third quarter it could be political uncertainties that dominate market sentiment.

He believes that share prices were overheated anyway and that the market was due for a correction. Rights' issues pro-

TOP 10 BIGGEST RIGHTS ISSUES

ISSUER	£M	DATE
NatWest	714	May 86
BP	623	Jun 81
Hanson Trust*	519	Jun 85
Barclays	507	Mar 85
Saatchi & Saatchi	406	Apr 86
Prudential	357	May 86
NatWest	236	Jul 84
Beechams	197	Jun 83
RTZ	192	Jun 83
Trafalgar House	175	Feb 85

*Hanson issue comprised £370 million in ordinary shares and remainder in preference shares.

vided "an occasion for doing what needed to be done."

In a rights' issue a company sets out to raise money by issuing new shares, usually at a discount to the market price of existing shares. Shareholders are offered new shares in proportion to their existing holding, for example two shares for every five they already own. To maintain their percentage stake in the company they have to dig

deep into their pockets for cash.

So far this year companies have asked their shareholders for £2.2 billion through rights' issues, which compares with a total of £3.1 billion for the whole of last year. The demands have nearly all fallen in April and May, following a quiet start to the year.

In taking fright at the spate of rights' issues, often known as cash calls, investors were taking their cue from history books. A year ago a similar stream of rights' issues culminated in a £500 million cash call, then a record, from Hanson Trust, which was followed by a sharp slump in share prices.

The stock market soon recovered however and in the first quarter of this year it rose strongly. Companies could not resist the temptation of raising cheap money, and this gave rise to accusations of opportunism. The City was particularly unnerved by companies who refused to say



Kenneth Inglis of Phillips & Drew: Investors suffer "a series of obsessions"

what they would use the rights' money for.

The man from the Pru is normally trusted to invest without outside interference but when Prudential Assurance asked shareholders to cough up £357 million they wanted to know why. The company simply said the rights' issue proceeds would enable it to take advantage of opportunities as and when they arose.

Saatchi and Saatchi was equally vague about the purpose of its £406 million cash call, though since it was launched the company has agreed a merger with Ted Bates and so become the largest advertising agency in the world.

Harris Queensway is opening several new stores at great expense but these would normally be funded out of cash flow or bank borrowings. Britannia Arrow was more specific in that it wanted the money to pay for MIM (Montagu Investment Management). It is not just the flood of rights issues that has caught investors' attention. Companies have been joining the stock market in ever growing numbers, giving rise to a hectic new issue season. In the busy week of NatWest's record-breaking cash call there were no less than five offers for sale and four placings.

The largest of the recent arrivals was Mrs Fields Inc, an American cookie company set up and run by 29-year-old Debbie Fields and valued at £210 million. Despite all the glamour and excitement of the company, only 16 per cent of the shares on offer were subscribed. The rest were left with the underwriters.

Even some of the issues that were fully subscribed and traded initially at a premium have lost favour now. Shares in Templeton, Galbraith, an American fund management company, for example, stand 10p below the 215p offer price.

Adrian Fitzgerald of Wood Mackenzie, the brokers, believes the problem of indigestion, such as it is, will sort itself out. "It doesn't need anybody to tighten the controls," he says.

Clearing the decks before privatization

The Bank of England is responsible for running an orderly queue of rights' issues, so the theoretical implication of the recent spate of cash calls is that several more are lined up. In practice the market's recent correction is likely to have frightened off the more half-hearted of the companies. Fitzgerald suggests the queue will therefore thin out naturally.

Already Target Group, the life assurance and unit trust company, has postponed its stock market flotation planned for June until October or later. Target's managing director, John Stone, says the main reason for the delay is the fall in the market.

Target was hoping for a fairly generous valuation to reflect both its past performance and potential profitability. It is currently suffering from "new business strain" which means that recent sales gains have yet to feed through to increased profits.

In addition the float would have faced the life sector with

several concurrent demands. The Pru's rights' issue is absorbing £357 million and the market is expecting a further placing of shares in Abbey Life next month. Target would have been third on the list, which is hardly propitious.

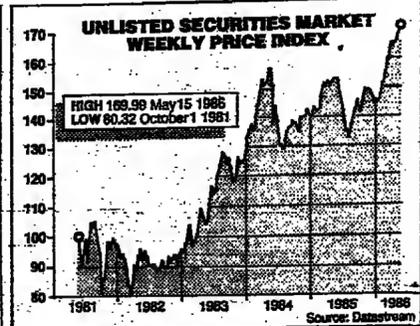
Target still plans to join the stock market this autumn so it clearly believes the current bout of market weakness will not last. The problem for Target is that by the autumn the Government's privatization campaign will be in full swing. Royal Ordnance, Rolls-Royce and British Gas are all on the starting blocks now.

In lumping so many cash calls together the Bank of England may well have been clearing the decks before the privatization onslaught. Companies who leave it until the autumn to raise money will be competing with the likes of British Gas' £2.5 billion flotation and the attendant publicity. For most it will be an unequal battle.

The autumn schedule should not in theory exhaust institutional cash flow however. In practice much depends on the strength of the market. Nicholas Knight of James Capel expects the FT All Share to fall from its level of 776 to below 750 in the summer and pick up to 800 by the end of the year.

Other brokers are even more confident, but all warn that their projections could be upset by, say, a Wall Street collapse. What seems clear is that the Government will do all in its power to help give British Gas a good blast-off.

Clare Dobie



Four hundred millionaires from a new market

The unlisted securities market has become the single most important source of equity capital for small companies since it was launched five years ago.

In this time more than 450 companies have obtained a quotation for their shares, raising about £1,000 million.

Of these firms, 55 have gone on to a full Stock Exchange listing, 31 have been acquired, 15 have been reorganized, and a further nine have had dealings suspended or cancelled for solvency reasons.

However, there have been signs in recent months that the pace of recruits to the market was slackening. The accounts of many firms, particularly those which have been involved with 15 per cent of all flotations to the market, noted that only seven companies were floated during the first quarter of the year compared with 18 in the same quarter a year ago.

This was the fewest number of new entrants to the market in any quarter since it was established posing the question: was the market losing its attraction?

The USM has been a major success for the Stock Exchange. It was set up amid concern that the number of companies seeking a listing on the Stock Exchange was dwindling.

The Stock Exchange took the sensible view that one of the main obstacles preventing companies from coming forward was the very high entry standards required. So it took the innovative step of relaxing the rules so that a company could join with only three years rather than five years trading history, and allowed the owners to hold on to the bulk of their shares, selling no more than 10 per cent to the public rather than 25 per cent as in the case of a full listing.

The USM, after a tentative beginning with just 23 companies, has blossomed in the great bull market — despite some setbacks. Initially it attracted a high number of technology related companies whose imminent demise was being constantly predicted. The end eerily came when with the near collapse of Acorn Computers, once the USM's biggest company valued at £217 million. When dealings were halted with its shares changing hands at just 28p the company was worth just £30 million. But by that time the USM has fortunately broadened its base having passed through the technology phase and oil and gas exploration period to something bordering a microcosm of the main market.

Now in fact the USM embraces PR firms, architects, nursing homes, engineers, travel firms, T-shirt printers, pub refurbishers, and manufacturers of anti-terrorist parking barriers!

Alan Comber of Peat Marwick does not think that the sluggish rate of arrivals earlier this year marked any long term loss of confidence in the market.

Now in fact the USM embraces PR firms, architects, nursing homes, engineers, travel firms, T-shirt printers, pub refurbishers, and manufacturers of anti-terrorist parking barriers!

Alan Comber of Peat Marwick does not think that the sluggish rate of arrivals earlier this year marked any long term loss of confidence in the market.

He said: "It may be that private companies which would otherwise make good USM prospects are being snapped up by major corporations in the light of the recent frenetic acquisition activity in the City."

"Though there is no evidence that the prospective entrants themselves have lost any enthusiasm for a public flotation, there are some signs that companies which would have selected the USM a year ago are now choosing a full listing. Another possible explanation for the current downturn in entrants to the junior market is that the City is becoming increasingly selective about the companies it wishes to sponsor, in the period preceding the Big Bang."

Though the rate has picked up since the first quarter, the total number joining the USM is unlikely to match the 99 last year.

Even so, there are signs that companies are endeavouring to scramble aboard the USM bandwagon ahead of the flotation of TSB and British Gas — which will drain a lot of cash out of the system — as long

Despite criticisms, the USM is in most cases viewed favourably

before the next General Election as they are able.

This is the view of Patrick Harrex of accountants Spicer and Pegler who have also been prominent in steering companies to the market. He said: "I think there is a feeling that if you are planning to go to the market then do it quickly and take the money while you can."

Many companies with the necessary experience are also finding it only a little more expensive to complete the journey in one move and go directly to the main market.

There, they would join former USM recruits such as Spring Ram Corporation, manufacturers of bathroom and kitchen sinks; McCarthy and Stone, builders of sheltered housing for the elderly; and the public relations group formed out of the merger of two USM companies, Addison Communications and the Michael Page Partnership.

The overall view of the USM remains a positive one. There are still criticisms about the limited amount of stock available on the market which does create a liquidity problem. This of course makes the share price very volatile. But few of the companies which joined have regrets about having made the move.

A recent survey showed that the unwelcome aspects of going to the market were not financial but instead the problems caused by the amount of boardroom time taken up by the move. But considering the USM has created nearly 400 new millionaires most directors no doubt consider the time well spent.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Home Secretary, no. City secretaries, yes.

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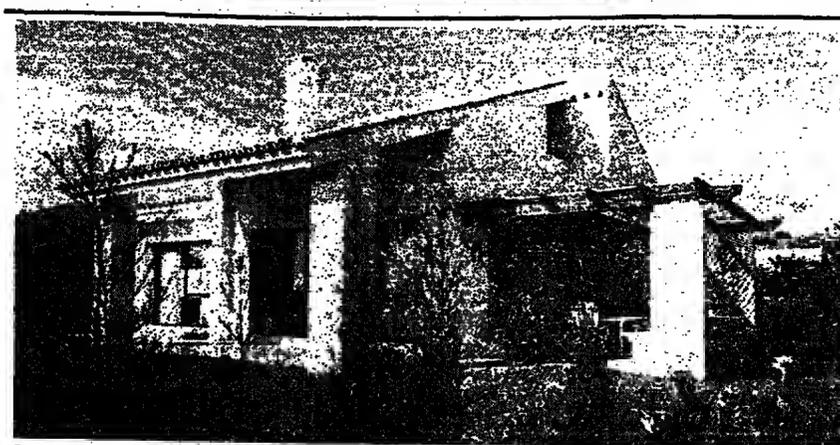
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This large detached villa, one of five for sale in Flores de Andalucía, is ideal for permanent living. The kitchens are fully equipped and marble floors are standard. Private swimming pools, costing from around £6,000, can be installed if required.

Down on the Costa del Farm

The sheer length of the Costa del Sol's coastline, stretching east as it does from Gibraltar to Almuñécar, a distance of over 100 miles, allows it to offer a variety of property for sale, at all price brackets. Holiday apartments and villas, often purchased with a long-term view to permanent retirement, are still the most popular choice. But growing numbers of potential buyers are looking inland and considering the idea of acquiring a village house, perhaps with an acre or so of garden, a smallholding or even a working farm.

The idea of buying a rural property seems to appeal to two distinct types of UK buyers. First, there is the bobby farmer, keen to buy a manageable tract of land which requires little regular involvement. According to UK agents Fincasol, who run a farms department for their Spanish office at Sotogrande, up to 15 acres is viable on this basis.

Facilities including a clubhouse serving drinks and snacks, and a tennis court, is planned to start later this year. The villas, which are fully air-conditioned, have split-level living rooms complete with open fireplaces and a gallery, and each home has an individual alarm system.

By Diana Wildman

It is essential when buying old rural properties that a lawyer checks that the purchaser is able to acquire full title deeds to all the land as well as the house.

Five villas are still for sale

Details: Fincasol Ltd, 4 Bridge Street, Salisbury SP1 2LX. Tel: 0722 26444 or their London office, 18 Queen Street, W1. Tel: 01-499 6187.

Both the architectural design and building were organized by the owner, an American millionaire, over the past decade and the mansion is part grand-European in style with its vast reception rooms, traditional library complete with 16th-century coffered ceiling from Seville, and four large bedroom suites.

But it is a strong Arab influence which dominates the house. The Moorish style built around the cupola of a large double-domed Arab reception room and the whole house has a myriad of linked passageways where wall murals and general design is modelled on Granada's famous Alhambra Palace.

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE OVERSEAS PROPERTY

VILLARS - SWITZERLAND

Imagine an exclusive resort, just 70 minutes from Geneva... Skiing, swimming, golf, horse-riding, tennis, restaurants & shops. International schools... all set in wooded slopes with stunning mountain view.

LE BRISTOL

A unique concept in select fully serviced apartments with all the facilities of a luxury hotel - indoor pool, squash, bars, restaurants, etc. 1 to 4 room apartments from \$713,000. Up to 80% Swiss finance.

TORREVEIJA COSTA BLANCA

Studies... from £8,500 approx. 1 Bedroom Apartments... from £11,100 approx. 2 Bedroom... from £18,555 approx.

Telephone: 0603-615692/616221/632379 SUNRISE OVERSEAS PROPERTIES 44/48 Magdalen Street, Norwich NR3 2JE

THE ROYAL HEIGHTS



Each spacious and beautifully appointed property on the Royal Heights is set in the privacy and security of its own landscaped grounds. Villas with 3-5 bedrooms and private pool, full maintenance and security services, range from £145,000 to £240,000.

MARBELLA

A luxurious development of houses and apartments overlooking the sea and Albufera in the heart of the Algarve. Prices from £38,500 freehold.

ELLIOTT WINDMILL HILL

1 bedroom apartment, shared pool from £7,325 2 bedroom apartment, shared pool from £11,511

FEW & PHILLIPS SPANISH PROPERTY 8 Station Rd, Cambus 022023 2667 (24hrs)

Luxury Terraced Apartments in quiet, civilised

MONTPELINO La Herradura, S. Spain. 1-3 bedrooms in beautifully landscaped position overlooking bay. From £24,000 to £45,000.

ALPINS Marbella area Playa de la Lucrecia CALAHORRA Costa del Sol

SPAIN PARADISE Best value for money on Costa del Sol. New high quality detached villas.

MARBELLA INVEST The Top 10 Developers are taking direct and indirect shares in a Property Development in the Port of Marbella.

ITALY NEW BROCHURE for Tuscany and other parts of Italy. Situated in a French & Assoc. 10 Farm Road, Hove, Sussex BN2 7JZ 02737.

PORTUGAL CASCAIS Outstanding plot of 1/2 acre in C.A. (Urban) area. Located in a quiet residential area.

FRANCE GARDY FARM HOUSE Fully equipped, central heating, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

WILTSHIRE WOITTON REVERES nr Marlborough. A beautiful house with a large garden.

YORKSHIRE EASTWOOD, West Sussex. A charming house in a quiet location.

LAND FOR SALE BRITANNY, Dorset & South. A large plot of land in a desirable location.

PROPERTY WANTED WANTED, Property suitable for retirement. Tel: 01-465 6086

PROPERTY TO LET PERSON OFFERING TO LET 1/2 acre of land in a quiet location.

PROPERTY TO LET TINY KILBURNIAN (Dorset) 1/2 acre of land in a quiet location.

WEST END BROKERAGE A vacancy has arisen for a bright intelligent individual for the position of a professional negotiator in the West End of London.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS NEGOTIATOR REQUIRED FOR THE POSITION OF a professional negotiator in the West End of London.

EXPERIENCED GOURMET Cook. A vacancy has arisen for a professional negotiator in the West End of London.

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COUNTRY PROPERTIES

RUSSELL & HAMLEY BOOBYN, £22,500. Luxury Spanish style residence, 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 cars, 5/6 AC, landscaped double site.

WESTAR ROSS 2 cottages sleep 4, by the side of Loch Dulich, Scottish Loch, 16 for 16, 16 for 16. From £26,000. ALSO SITE FOR SALE. Tel: 059985 205

DENNISON ROAD BODMIN Phone: (0208) 2346

ENGLEFIELD GREEN Substantial period properties for sale. 15 acres, 100 ft frontage, 100 ft depth, 100 ft width.

HOVE ELEGANT SUNNY REGENCY BALCONY FLAT 1st FLOOR Furnished by Harolds Opposite Sea and Lanes. 3 bedrooms, lounge/dining room, 12 inch kitchen, bathroom & shower room.

OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH OXFORD Oxford 11 miles, Georgian village house, 11 acres, 11 acres, 11 acres.

HEREFORDSHIRE WORCS & SHRO? NORTH HERFORDSHIRE. 1/2 acre, 1/2 acre, 1/2 acre.

MIDLANDS SPINK CHESTNUTS, WELSHMAN Bedford, North Bedfordshire. 11 acres, 11 acres, 11 acres.

MIDDLESEX STRAWBERRY HILL LUXURY HOME 1/2 acre, 1/2 acre, 1/2 acre.

SOMERSET & AVON SOMERSET. 11 acres, 11 acres, 11 acres.

WILTSHIRE EASTWOOD, West Sussex. A charming house in a quiet location.

SCOTLAND SPEY VALLEY. Superior cottage situated in the heart of the Spey valley.

NORTH WEST WOODDALE 1/2 acre, 1/2 acre, 1/2 acre.

WILTSHIRE EASTWOOD, West Sussex. A charming house in a quiet location.

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DEVON/DORSET BORDER (Axminster 2 miles) Charming Georgian detached house in quiet picturesque village.

WIRRAL, CHESHIRE Substantial detached property on a prominent site in the heart of one of the Wirral's best and most popular towns.

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MIDDLE

PERSONAL

All classified advertisements can be accessed by telephone (except Announcements). The deadline is 3.00pm 2 days prior to publication (on Friday Morning for Wednesday). Should you wish to send an advertisement in writing please include your daytime phone number. CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPARTMENT: If you have any queries or problems relating to your advertisement or if it has appeared, please contact our Customer Services Department by telephone on 01-871 4100.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE HELP: The National Blood Donor Fund for the aged is seeking volunteers for the role of donor in conditions like arthritis, diabetes, etc. Donors should be over 65 and have a steady income. Please contact the National Blood Donor Fund, 100, Broad St, London E22 6JH. Tel: 01-850 0599.

BIRTHDAYS

MEMORISON late, Happy Birthdays to: John, David, and Christina.

SERVICES

COMPANY GOLF Days organized for staff or customers. Any location. Tel: 01-732 9722.

PIANO LESSONS Young and adult. Tel: 01-732 9722.

YOUR OWN FILMS cut, edited, printed. Tel: 01-732 9722.

CALLIGRAPHY courses. Tel: 01-732 9722.

FIREWORKS for home or business. Tel: 01-732 9722.

MARRIAGE & AFFAIRS Bureau. Tel: 01-732 9722.

WANTED

WIMBLEDON Tickets and season tickets for sale. Tel: 01-732 9722.

FOOD & WINE

CHAMPAGNE gift service. Tel: 01-732 9722.

FOR HIM

FRONTS 100% wool. Tel: 01-732 9722.

WIMBLEDON

WIMBLEDON tickets. Tel: 01-732 9722.

THE TIMES 1985-1986. Other... Tel: 01-732 9722.

DISCOUNTS

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